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San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

AGENDA

Monday January 03, 2005
6:00 PM

Meeting Location:
War Memorial Veterans' Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 219
San Francisco, CA 94102

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

JAN 10 2005

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01/05/2005 REV 0

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER
- ❖ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ❖ ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
- ❖ APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- ❖ APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- ❖ PUBLIC COMMENT

❖ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Commission By-Laws – Selection of a By-Laws Committee Chair by the President
2. Commission Goals, Plans & Funding
3. Commission Appointees & Vacancies
4. County Veterans' Service Office Report
5. Department of Veterans' Affairs Report
6. Health & Welfare (Homeless & Disabled Veterans) Report
7. Legislation Report
8. National Veterans' Service Organizations Report
9. Annual Report to the Mayor & Board of Supervisors

Old Business:

- ❖ USS IOWA update

New Business:

- ❖ Commission Staff Secretary – Introduction of Ms. La Shaun Williams from the Human Services Agency

Announcements

Next Commission meeting: Monday February 07, 2005



San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

AGENDA

**Monday February 07, 2005
6:00 PM**

**Meeting Location:
War Memorial Veterans' Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 223
San Francisco, CA 94102**

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

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➤ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

7/85

- 1. Commission By-Laws
- 2. Commission Goals and Plans
- 3. Commission Vacancies
- 4. County Veterans Service Office
- 5. Department of Veterans' Affairs
- 6. Health & Welfare (Homeless and Disabled Veterans)
- 7. Legislation
- 8. National Veterans' Service Organizations

Old Business:

- USS IOWA
- Annual Commission Report to the Mayor and BOS – update from Commissioner Wilson

New Business:

- Request from Commissioner Champagne to move Public Comment and to assign a time limit

Announcements

Next Commission meeting: March 07, 2005, Room 223

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Cheryl D. Cook at the County Veterans Service Office at (415) 554-7100 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

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Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, FAX: (415) 554-7854
E-mail: Donna.Hall@sfgov.org

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at www.sfgov.org

To inspect documents referred to on agenda, please contact: Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Department of Aging and Adult Services/County Veterans Service Office, 875 Stevenson Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, Office: (415) 554-7100, Fax: (415) 554-7101, E-mail: sfcvso@sfgov.org

LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

February 07, 2005

MINUTES

- ❖ Commission meeting was called order at 6:20 PM with a quorum
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance was led by all
- ❖ Roll Call of Officers – All present
- ❖ Commission Agenda was approved
- ❖ Minutes were approved

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Commissioners Present: Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, Brian Zweir, Cheryl D. Cook, Ralph E. Gibson, Sr., Jill Buck, Raymond Wong, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson, George Gibbs, Charles "Corky" Reed, Fred Gomez

Commissioners Absent: Aaron Zeff, Wallace Levin

There is one (1) vacant seat – Mayoral Appointment

Correspondence to the Commission: Ms. Cook read a letter to the Commission received from Wallace Levin. Letter included with minutes

Mr. Thompson welcomed the newest Commissioner, Jill Buck.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Bill Stephens from the HSPS/IOWA informed us of an upcoming Port Commission meeting regarding the birthing of historical ships on the SF waterfront and urged all Commissioners to attend to show their support. He also informed us of legislation introduced to move the Iowa to the Stockton area. (article w/minutes)

Mr. Rudy Asercion, Public Relations for the War memorial Commission, informed the Commission of an upcoming exhibit of photographic work by Joel Meyerowitz called "IMAGES FROM GROUND ZERO"; his work will be on display starting March 11, 2005 with ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 AM to open the exhibit. 28 images out of 7,000 will be on display.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

By-Laws: Mr. Champagne reported that the report would be delayed because of a meeting time misunderstanding. He has rescheduled the meeting for 5:00 PM, Monday March 07, 2005 in Room 223 of the Veterans' Building. The committee members are: Bud Wilson, Charles Reed Renie Champagne and Veronika Cauley.

Goals and Plans: No Report

County Veterans' Service Office: Report deferred until next Commission meeting

Dept of Veterans' Affairs: Mr. Gibbs reported that the staffing at the 13th Street VA Clinic is way down due to staff reassignments and resignations. They recently lost the VA Homeless Outreach Coordinator and have no knowledge of when or if the vacancy will be filled.

Health and Welfare (Homeless and Disabled Veterans): Mr. Gibbs commented that he would like to see the Commission take an active role in seeing that the City recognizes the "disenfranchised veterans" in this City and do something about it. Ms. Buck commented on a homeless report she found on the VA website that reported on the childcare needs of veterans with families/children. She suggested that the commissioners become more aware of this issue, she will continue to research and report back to the commission in upcoming meetings. Mr. Reed stated that he has been trying to obtain the dollar amount spent on one homeless person in a city shelter for one year and has been unsuccessful. He stated the goal is to inform City hall of the need for preferential services for veterans. Commissioner Buck and Reed were selected by Commissioner Gibbs to continue to work on these issues of concern and to bring recommendations to the Commission for future discussion.

Legislation: Commissioner Thompson appointed a new leg Chair for the Commission; Commissioner Zweir, his committee would include Commissioners Wong, Cauley and Champagne. Commissioner Cauley stated that she would like to see generate funds for veterans through legislation by changing the profile of the current Commission purpose. She requested that it be made an agenda item within the Legislation Report.

National Veterans Service Organizations: See Announcements...

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Wilson informed the Commission that the annual report was completed and given to the Mayor and BOS. Report attached to these minutes. General discussion ensued. Commissioner Zweir brought up the point that the Commission before going to the Mayor and the Board should have reviewed the report.

Commissioner Cook read a Memorial Day report sent to the Commission by Wallace Levin who recently underwent heart surgery and assures us that he is on the road to recovery. (the report is included with these minutes)

NEW BUSINESS:

A request was made by Commissioner Champagne to move Public Comment to a later time in the agenda and to place a time limit on comments. Commissioner Zweir suggested that we organize our meetings first before making changes that could affect Public Comment. It was agreed by all to table this discussion until Commissioner Champagne was present for his input.

Commissioner Cauley would like to see this Commission recognize the Naval soldiers killed in the Port Chicago disaster. She will draft a letter and present it at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Zweir feels the Mayor and the BOS needs a reminder that the VAMC at Ft. Miley is in San Francisco and that this Commission recommends that they visit the hospital and offer assistance, this is a possible ACTION ITEM for the Commission to approve a letter to the Mayor & BOS. Agenda Item

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Wong reported that there will be a reception hosted by VFW Dist 15 honoring him and his wife on March 12, 2005 at 12:00 PM, here at the Veterans Building and on March 18, 2005 the VFW State Commander's informal dinner at Mel's Drive-In starting at 4:45 PM.

Commissioner Wong also passed out information regarding the "Four Chaplains". (included with these minutes)

Commissioner Cook announced the next Homeless Project Connect effort: Thursday, Feb 17 starting at 9 AM at the Bill Graham Auditorium, she urged all the Commissioners to volunteer. She will give an update at the next commission meeting.

A Get Well card wishing Commissioner Levin a speedy recovery was circulated and mailed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM in memory of the men and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Next meeting Monday March 07, 2005 at 6 PM in room 223

Recorded and Submitted by:



Commissioner Cook, Recording Secretary

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San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

Commissioners

Veronika Cauley
P.O. Box 426710
San Francisco, CA 94142-6710
415-240-6244

Renie Champagne
209 Rutland Street
San Francisco, CA 94134
415-467-8218

Cheryl D. Cook
655 John Muir Dr. Apt 304
San Francisco, CA 94132
415-585-4766
415-554-7107 (office)
415-515-6753 (cell)

George Gibbs
3 Seymore Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
415-551-7312

Ralph E. Gibson Sr.
580 Capp Street # 218
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-824-7210

Godofredo "Fred" Gomez
24 Tomaso Court
San Francisco, CA 94134
415-584-1224

Wallace Levin
1900 Monterey Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94127
415-982-3417

Charles "Corky" Reed
3133 16th Street # 9
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-626-5701

Michael Thompson
236 Point Lobos Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121
415-668-0930
415-749-5290 (office)

Elbert "Bud" Wilson
267 Uolla Street
San Francisco, CA 94127
415-759-0654

Raymond Wong
1634 38th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
415-566-7285

Aaron Zeff
777 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
415-577-9900 (office)

City and County of San Francisco
GAVIN NEWSOM, Mayor



Human Services Agency/DAAS
Trent Rhorer, Executive Director
Derrick Lam, MSW, Director

San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

COMMISSIONERS

Brian Zweir
459 Union Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
415-835-6001

Jill Buck
2529 Via Espada
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-931-0386

Mayor Gavin Newsom
Mayor of the City & County of San Francisco

Supervisor Aaron Peskin
President of the Board of Supervisors

Re: Veteran's Affairs Commission Annual Report

January 31, 2005

The Veteran's Affairs Commission has eleven appointed Commissioners, with two vacancies at the present time, one Mayoral appointment and one Woman Veteran by the Board of Supervisors. This Commission serves the interest of some 50,000 Veteran's of the Armed Services residing in the City & County of San Francisco. The Veteran's Affairs Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors on all Veterans' issues. The Commission meets monthly in the War Memorial Veteran's Building.

The Veteran's Affairs Commission sponsors and coordinates two major events each year in honor and recognition of the Veteran's who served our nation in time of need. These events are The Memorial Day Services at the Presidio and the Veteran's Day Parade. Two of our Commissioners, Renie Champagne and Wallace Levin have provided the leadership that have made these events a major success for the past twenty years.

* The 2004 Memorial Day Services at the Presidio National Cemetery was attended by an estimated 3,000 people. Many of our elected officials choose to attend this event to show their respect and honor those who gave their lives in the service for their country. We truly appreciate the support of the National Park Service, Presidio Trust and the National Cemetery Department for this event.

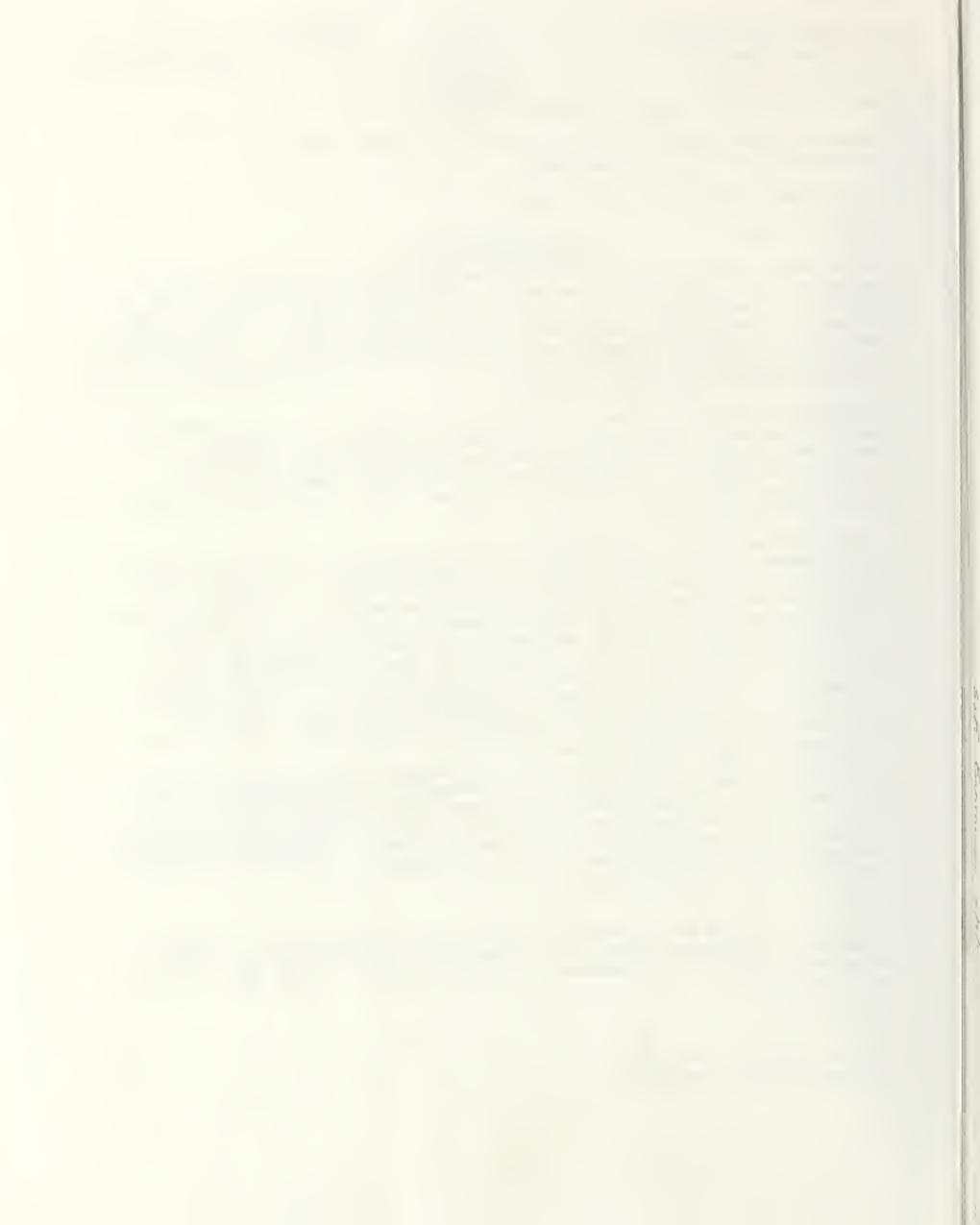
* The 2004 Veteran's Day Parade was one of the largest to date with over 150 units participating in the event. Although the spectator turnout was not as high as in past years due to a lack of media publicity the event was highly successful. We are forever grateful to the 91st Division for their continuing support and participation in our annual Veteran's Day Parades. We truly appreciate the many Bay Area Marching Bands, Drill Teams, ROTC and Military Units that participated in this event.

* BATTLESHIP IOWA In the year 2004, the Veteran's Affairs Commission has actively supported the final phase of the relocation of the Battleship Iowa to San Francisco. Individual Commissioners have worked tirelessly to make this move a reality. San Francisco can be proud to have this historical ship located in our city for people to visit in the years to come. We especially appreciate the support that our elected officials at all levels have given the Battleship Iowa relocation to San Francisco.

An ongoing priority for the Veteran's Commission is to disseminate information concerning assistance programs for homeless and recently discharged veterans in coordination with various government and local veteran's service organizations and city programs.

Respectfully,

Michael Thompson, President
Veterans Affairs Commission



radius by measuring the declination of the bullet.

It pinpoints where the shot was fired, and trains an ad-

joining camera on the shooter before sending a 911 call to a police station. Police take their

control of the cameras to track the suspect and dis-

patch officers to the scene. Cost is a significant issue at a time when the City faces a budget crisis. According to

Web sites, the audio devices retail for around \$400, while cameras would cost extra.

Commissioner Gayle Orr-Smith said she thought the cameras could deter crime but was

interested in a pilot program to see if the community supported it and to test whether the device merely displaced crime to near-by streets. Residents in the Visitation Valley and Mission dis-

trict have lobbied the City to install security cameras.

Bayview Rotary Club mem-

ber and local businessman For-

est Gray, who has seen a demon- stration, supported the device, saying The City was finding it hard to deter crime because of a shortage of beat officers.

But some were concerned cameras would cast the speci-

“big brother”

“I want to be innovative to stop hoodlums, but this looks like a kind of surveillance situa-

tion that runs the risk of pick- ing up mere nuisance crimes and further criminalizing the community,” community ac-

tivist Sharon Hewitt said.

The device's maker, Illinois-

based Safety Dynamics, could not be reached Sunday. Chief executive officer Bryan Baker said in a recent interview that the technology spared resi-

dents, fearful of reprisals from criminals, from having to pro-

vide police evidence of crimes.

BY MARSA LAGOS
Staff Writer

The 10-year fight to bring the battleship USS Iowa to San Francisco's waterfront is heating up once more, with an East Bay congressman offering some competition and The City set to establish a policy for historic ships at the port.

A handful of veterans and na-

val enthusiasts have long fought

to bring the 48,000-pound ship, or

one of its sister vessels, to the San

Francisco Bay. In 1996, The City

lost its bid, supported by then-

Mayor Willie Brown and the Port,

to house the USS Missouri.

Tuesday, the Port Commis-

sion will consider a policy that

would set out requirements for

the berthing of any historic ship

or boat along the waterfront

here, including the need for the

vessel to have some “connection

or historical relationship” to the

Navy and Congress to clear the

way for the Iowa’s placement

here, a city the ship has called

home three times before.

“We all feel San Francisco is

the right place,” said veterans as-

sociation member Paul Gomez,

who first docked the ship in 1951

at Hunters Point Shipyard to ship

out to South Korea. “She’s a mag-

nificent ship, a beautiful ship...an

example of modern technology of

the time it was built.”

Gomez and Mervlyn Wong, pres-

ident of the nonprofit, hope to one

day see the Iowa berthed at Pier 35

move to, on donation status, to

the Port of Stockton.

Stockton port director Rich-

ard Aschens said he antic-

ipated several applications from

around the country. If the ship

is taken off reserve,

“They will have to jump

S.F. home urged for USS Iowa

BY MARSA LAGOS
Staff Writer

Backers would like to see the USS Iowa docked at Pier 35.

STYLIC WILLETT/TIMES

Backers would like to see the USS Iowa docked at Pier 35.

“We all feel San Francisco is the right place,” said veterans association member Paul Gomez, who first docked the ship in 1951 at Hunters Point Shipyard to ship out to South Korea. “She’s a magnificent ship, a beautiful ship...an example of modern technology of the time it was built.”

through several hoops before The City becomes home, however. The Iowa is currently part of the Navy’s mothball fleet, and Congress must authorize it for donation before it is taken off reserve status. Then, the Navy would open the bidding for the ship and make a recommendation.

Additionally, the Port Commission would have to approve a location for the ship. Pier 35 has been mentioned as an option, but spokeswoman Renée Dunn said that pier will be used until at least 2009 for overflow at the cruise terminal. There “might” be an opportunity on the south-

ern waterfront, she added.

In 1999, legislation authored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., established that Congress supported berthing the Iowa in San Francisco.

But last week, Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Tracy, introduced legislation that would strike out the provision that would require dispensing oral antibiotics to the entire city population within 48 hours.

SFUSD to be tested on its textbooks

The San Francisco Unified School District will hold a statewide public hearing to ensure that all students have proper textbooks during their regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting Tuesday. Verifying textbook sufficiency is an annual requirement of all California schools, but is particularly important this year, in light of recently settled lawsuits that charged low-income schools didn’t have proper in-

to building committee

Mayor Gavin Newsom announced last week two new appointments to the City’s school

district inspection committee.

Rutherford, one of the organizers of the Preschool for All plan.

Newly elected San Francisco School Board member Norman Yee added that dollars spent on preschool are eventually saved as the children grow up and are less dependent on social services.

By Marisa Lagos

E-mail: mlagos@sfexaminer.com

- Compiled from staff, wire reports

co’s Preschool for All program is expected to serve 603 preschoolers in four ZIP code areas: Mission (94110), Excelsior (94112), Bayview (94110) and Visitacion Valley (94124).

The plan, developed by the city Children and Families Commission is part of a larger state effort to begin public education in California at 4 years old, or pre-kindergarten. Other local initiatives are underway in Los Angeles and proved preschool providers.

“The providers, many of which already receive state or federal funds, Low-income parents will have priority, and a sliding scale will determine how much money, if any, they would have to pay to enroll their child in one of the ap-

ten school system from scratch,” said Michelle Rutherglen, one of the organizers of the Preschool for All plan.

Newly elected San Francisco School Board member Norman Yee said research has shown that preschool gives students an advantage that is often unavailable to low-income minority students. Low-income parents will have to pay to low-income minority students. Yee added that dollars spent on preschool are eventually saved as the children grow up and are less dependent on social services.

E-mail: mlagos@sfexaminer.com

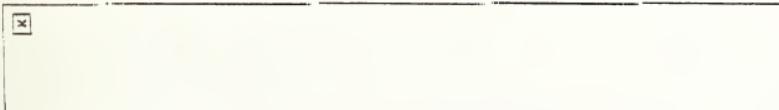
E-mail: asotin@sfexaminer.com

S.F. Examiner 2/15

Audrey Cooper

USS Iowa

From: Philbin, Nicole [Nicole.Philbin@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2005 1:41 PM
To: Philbin, Nicole
Subject: Congressman Pombo Works To Bring Battleship to Stockton



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2005

Contact: Nicole Philbin, (202) 225-1947 | nicole.philbin@mail.house.gov

Pombo Works to Bring Battleship to Stockton

Washington - Today, Congressman Richard Pombo (CA-11) introduced legislation that would make the unclaimed battleship, USS Iowa, eligible for the U.S. Navy Ships Donation Program. In addition, it would lay the groundwork to designate Rough and Ready Island at the Port of Stockton its permanent dwelling place.

"This is a win-win situation for the Navy and the Central Valley," said Congressman Pombo. "The Port has the desire and the ability to accommodate this important piece of our American military history, and it would have a great resting place at Rough and Ready Island."

The USS Iowa is the only battleship in the world without permanent residence. It was decommissioned in October 1990, and has remained dormant for the last 14 years. In November 2004, the General Accounting Office issued a report determining the Navy had no plans to reactivate the remaining battleships on reserve status, the USS Iowa and the USS Wisconsin.

"We've got a significant number of Veterans in our community. This is a tribute to them," said Congressman Pombo. "This would be an active memorial in remembrance of all our men and women who serve bravely in our military. It would also be a promising site for tourism."

Congressman Richard Pombo represents California's Eleventh Congressional District. Congressman Pombo is Chairman of the House Resources Committee and serves on the House Agriculture Committee.

For more information on Congressman Richard Pombo and his work for California please visit: <http://www.house.gov/pombo>

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The Four Chaplains

The Four Chaplains were Lieutenants of the United States Army Chaplain Corps who went down with USAT Dorchester when that ship was torpedoed by U-223 on 3 February 1943.

Unlike most of the men on board Dorchester, George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Clark V. Poling, a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, and John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest, had heeded Captain Hans Danielsens orders to sleep with life vests on because the area was believed to be infested with enemy submarines. When the torpedo hit, there was mass confusion on the ship, and many of the men could not find their life jackets in time. Rather than go into the lifeboats, which were overcrowded, the chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to other soldiers so that they could escape, even though this meant that they would go down with the ship.

According to the testimony of some of the survivors, the last thing they saw of the ship was the four chaplains, standing on deck with their arms linked, praying as the ship went down.

The chaplains were honored posthumously with a special Medal of Heroism and a stamp, issued in 1948. By an act of the United States Congress, 3 February was designated "Four Chaplains Day."

For more information or to contribute, visit the
Immortal Chaplains Foundation at, <http://www.immortalchaplains.org/>

American Legion Department of California requests the honor of your presence at the *Four Chaplains' Day Inter-Faith Service* February the Twelfth the Year Two Thousand Five at 2:30 in the Afternoon at St. Mary's Cathedral, Gough and Geary Streets San Francisco, California.

For information and RSVP, American Legion Department Headquarters
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 117 San Francisco, CA 94102 phone: 415-431-2400

If you are not in the San Francisco area and is interested in the Four Chaplain's Memorial Service, contact your local veterans organization.

Message sent by Raymond Wong, Commander, VFW District 15 San Francisco as a public service announcement. e-mail: vfwca.dist15@pacbell.net

FEB. 3, 2005

DATES.

I AM SENDING YOU ALL
THIS NOTE SO THAT YOU WILL BE
INFORMED AS TO MY PRESENT
MEDICAL ADVENTURE.

ON JAN. 6TH I HAD A UC
HOSPITAL APPOINTMENT FOR A
INTERNAL HEART EXAMINATION.
MUCH TO MY SURPRISE AND SHOCK
THEY COULD NOT COMPLETE THE
PROCEDURE AND THEY INFORMED
ME THAT I NEEDED OPEN HEART
SURGERY.

ALTHOUGH I NEVER HAD A
HEART ATTACK, I DID NOT WANT
TO WAIT AND WORRY.

I DECIDED TO HAVE THE
SURGERY NOW AND IT WAS THE
Toughest decision of my life.
IT WAS SET FOR JAN. 11TH AND
THE JAN. 13TH. BECAUSE OF
EMERGENCY CASES I LOST THOSE

IT IS A VERY SLOW PROCESS.
I HAVE BEEN LUCKY DURING
MY LIFETIME BECAUSE I HAVE
NOT BEEN HOSPITALIZED OR
VERY SICK. THUS THIS HAS
BEEN A VERY EMOTIONAL AND
DRAMATIC EXPERIENCE.

THANK YOU FOR THE CARDS,
LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS.
THEY REALLY MEAN SOMETHING
WHEN YOU ARE DOWN AND OUT
THE BEST TO YOU ALL,
WALLY LEVIN

MEMORIAL DAY REPORT

FEB. 3, 2005

DURING THE VETERANS DAY PARADE I HANDED OUT LETTERS TO UNITS THAT I FELT WOULD ADD TO OUR MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE. I INVITED THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE EVENT.

SINCE THE ONLY MAJOR PROBLEM WE HAVE HAD DURING THE PAST 4 YEARS IS GETTING A BAND, I MADE A VERY STRONG PITCH TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE BAND THAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS. THAT IS THE AWARD WINNING, 100 MAN AND WOMAN, RIORDAN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND,

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SCOTT SUSA.

ON JAN. 6TH, THE START OF MY MEDICAL ADVENTURE, THEY MADE ME WAIT 8 HOURS BEFORE MY EXAMINATION. THEY KEPT GETTING EMERGENCY CASES, WHICH KEPT PUSHING ME BACK.

FINALLY AFTER 6 HOURS I ASKED TO USE A HOSPITAL PHONE. MUCH TO MY DELIGHT I HAD A CALL FROM SUSA. I PHONED HIM AND HE CONFIRMED THAT THE RIORDAN BAND WILL PLAY FOR US ON MEMORIAL DAY. THIS WAS DONE AS I SAT ON A CHAIR OUT IN THE HALL, IN HOSPITAL ATTIRE, WITH MY BUTT IN THE WIND.

PURSUING THE NEXT 6 WEEKS, I HAVE 2 GOALS: GET BETTER/RECOVER LEARN



San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

AGENDA

Monday March 07, 2005
6:00 PM

Meeting Location:
War Memorial Veterans' Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 223
San Francisco, CA 94102

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER
- ❖ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ❖ ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
- ❖ APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- ❖ APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- ❖ PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ❖ Commission By-Laws – Amendment Report
- ❖ Commission Goals, Plans & Funding
- ❖ Commission Appointees & Vacancies
- ❖ County Veterans' Service Office Report
- ❖ Department of Veterans' Affairs Report
- 1. 13th St HCHV Clinic is short staffed
- ❖ Health & Welfare (Homeless & Disabled Veterans) Report
- 1. Childcare needs for veterans 2. Is the City & County doing enough for disenfranchised veterans? Health & Welfare Committee will discuss what the Commission can do.
- ❖ Legislation Report:
- 1. Commissioner Cauley will discuss ways the Commission can generate funds for veterans through the legislative process by changing the profile and purpose of the commission.
- ❖ National Veterans' Service Organizations Report
- 1. March 12, 2005 District 15 VFW Reception for Commander Wong and his wife, Dara at the Veterans' Building
- ❖ Annual Report to the Mayor & Board of Supervisors – Report attached to minutes of February, 2005

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Old Business:

- ❖ USS IOWA update
- ❖ Suggestion to move Public Comment postponed until Commissioner Champagne is present to discuss his recommendation.

New Business:

- ❖ Commissioner Cauley would like to discuss recognition of the Naval soldiers killed in the Port Chicago disaster. She will draft a letter and present at the March meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Zweir would like the Commission to consider a possible ACTION item to approve a letter to the Mayor and BOS to remind them that the VA Hospital is in San Francisco and want to establish a protocol for assistance.

Announcements

Next Commission meeting: Monday April 04, 2005



San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

AGENDA

Monday May 02, 2005
6:00 PM

Meeting Location:
War Memorial Veterans' Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 223
San Francisco, CA 94102

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER
- ❖ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ❖ ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
- ❖ APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- ❖ APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- ❖ PUBLIC COMMENT
- ❖ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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- ❖ Commission By-Laws – Amendment Report
- ❖ Commission Goals, Plans & Funding
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Old Business:

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- ❖ Commissioner Zweir would like the Commission to consider a possible ACTION item to approve a letter to the Mayor and BOS to remind them that the VA Hospital is in San Francisco and want to establish a protocol for assistance.

Announcements

Next Commission meeting: Monday June 06, 2005

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Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
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San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

Monday May 02, 2005

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MINUTES

- ❖ Commission meeting was called order at 6:20 PM with a quorum
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance was led by all
- ❖ Roll Call of Officers – All present
- ❖ Commission Agenda was approved
- ❖ No Minutes to approve – March & April no public notice of meeting posted, no official meeting was held

Commissioners Present: Brian Zweir, Cheryl D. Cook, Ralph E. Gibson, Sr., Jill Buck, Raymond Wong, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson, Wallace Levin, Charles "Corky" Reed, Fred Gomez

Commissioners Absent: Aaron Zeff, Renie Champagne, and Veronika Cauley

1 Vacant Seat – Mayoral Appointment

No correspondence to the Commission received

PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ USS IOWA – Ms. Wong from the HSPMS informed the Commission that Mayor Gavin Newsom was present at the April Port Commission. Ms. Wong also reported that the Post Commission has requested the HSPMS to submit a proposal and business plan regarding the birthing of the USS IOWA at a SF pier. A copy of a letter of support to the Secretary of the Navy from the Governor of Iowa was submitted to the Commission for the record. Commissioner Zweir directed a question to Ms. Wong asking "how would bringing the Iowa to SF help veterans?"

COMMISSION REPORTS

- ❖ By-Laws Committee: No Report
- ❖ Commission Goals, Plans & Funding: No Report
- ❖ Commission Appointees & Vacancies: Commissioner Thompson commented on the one mayoral vacancy and a possible vacancy of Commissioner Zeff's seat. Commissioner Levin will contact Commissioner Zeff regarding his letter of resignation. Commissioner Thompson will contact Mr. Edwin Wilkerson to see if he still had interest in filling the mayoral seat. Commissioner Thompson asked Commissioner Cook to inquire with the

Mayor's Office on commission appointments. A report will be given at the next commission meeting.

- ❖ CVSO Report: Commissioner Cook gave an overview of the Project Homeless Connect to the Commissioners and encouraged them to volunteer some time at the next effort in June. Commissioner Cook also informed the Commissioners that the CVSO is mailing "Welcome Home" letters to recently discharged veterans. These letters are from the Mayor and the CVSO is doing the mailings.
- ❖ Health & Welfare Committee: Commissioner Thompson spoke of the need for toiletries for the Comprehensive Work Therapy clients at the Health care for the Homeless Vet VA Clinic at 205 13th Street. Commissioner Buck spoke about wanting to do more research on the Community Homeless Assessment & Local Education & Networking Group (CHALENG) for veterans – PL 105-114. She will report back to the health & Welfare Committee.
- ❖ Legislation Report: VAC Legislation Chair, Commissioner Zweir announced that the next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 PM, June 06, 2005 in the VAC meeting room, #223. No report was given tonight. Commissioner Wong gave a brief update on the outcome of AB 410. They w/b included with the minutes.
- ❖ NVSO Report: Commissioner Wong reminded us that it is Vietnam Veterans Week and the 30th year of the Fall of Saigon, the Commissioner presented citations to all Commissioners that served in Vietnam.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to cancel the July Commission meeting by Commissioner Levin, 2nd by Commissioner Zweir..All In Favor..

Motion to prepare a letter of appreciation to City Attorney Dennis Herrera for his continued support of veterans by Commission Levin, 2nd by Commissioner Zweir..All In Favor

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Commission acknowledged the recognition given to Wayne Snodgrass of the City Attorney's Office by the California State Association of Counties for his part in writing a legal brief on local counties.

The 223rd NG/Military Intelligence @ Ft. Funston is having a "Welcome Home Reception" on May 14, 2005 at the War Memorial Veterans' Building @ 1300 hours.

The Junior R.O.T.C. will be performing drills at the SF Presidio Parade Grounds during their Annual Awards Ceremony starting @ 1000 hours.

Commissioner Levin, who is also the Chairman of the Memorial Day Ceremony at the SF National Cemetery in the Presidio, gave an update of the event. The Ceremony will start @ 1030 hours with a parade from the Parade Grounds to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, there will be dignitaries and V.I.P. participating in the event. Posters and flyers were distributed.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Cook, 2nd by all – 2030 hours – Meeting was adjourned in memory of over 1700 Americans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Next Commission meeting: Monday June 06, 2005, Room 223 @ 1800 hours

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Commissioner Cook

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
MAYOR'S MEMORIAL DAY CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE
War Memorial Veterans Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 127
San Francisco, CA 94102

The Mayor's 2005 Memorial Day Citizen's Committee invites you to be part of the 137th San Francisco Memorial Day Observance. The event will be held at the historic Presidio's San Francisco National Cemetery, on Monday, May 30, 2005. We will have a Parade at 10:30 a.m., followed by the Formal Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.

This year's event will give special recognition to the half a million Americans killed in World War II, on this 60th Anniversary of the ending of that war.

We will also pay special tribute to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those killed during the past year make the 2005 Memorial Day a very special Memorial Day. We have a sacred obligation to make sure that it is a special Memorial Day. I hope that you will do everything in your power to help us make this happen. It is the least we can do for our troops.

Our program will feature band music, taps, a 21 Howitzer cannon salute and a military fly-by. We also plan on having military exhibits on display at the Presidio Parade Ground.

Please let me know if you will be able to attend, so that we will be able to make the proper arrangements. We look forward to your participation and if you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 982-3417.

Sincerely,



Lt. Col. Wallace Levin CSMR (Ret.)
County Veterans Service Officer



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDERSON
LT. GOVERNOR

April 22, 2005

The Honorable Gordon R. England
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary England:

I am writing to voice my support for the proposal to relocate the U.S.S. Iowa to San Francisco, where she can serve as a magnificent war memorial.

This would be a fitting tribute to the sacrifices and loyal service Iowa's crew gave while defending our country from aggression. Although we can probably never individually thank all the crew members who served aboard this mighty warship, nor recognize all the singular acts of heroism and valor that occurred aboard the vessel, the sailors, soldiers and marines of the U.S.S. Iowa deserve this remembrance.

I can think of no finer way to honor the U.S.S. Iowa than to have as her final resting place a berth in one of our nation's most beautiful cities. Citizens from around the country and world could visit to pay tribute to her beauty, majesty and grace. The Iowa can serve no greater purpose than to educate our citizenry that freedom is not free.

Thank you for your consideration and for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Vilsack".

Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor

President
Barbara Meskunas 921-3455
First Vice President
Judith Barkowitz 583-4934
Second Vice President
Eileen Baker 824-0617
Treasurer

Doug Comstock 389-4634
Recording Secretary
Steve Grael 435-5333

Corresponding Secretary
Dick Miller 334-6225
Members-at-Large
Sharon Eckhardt
Bud Wilson
George Zelback

COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS

PO Box 320098 • San Francisco 94132 • 514 262-0440 • www.csfn.net

April 20, 2005

TO: Office of the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, Clerk of the Board, Port Authority,
Port Commission, US Navy

RE: USS IOWA BERTHING BY PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO

At its April meeting, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods passed the following resolution:

Therefore, be it resolved, that the CSFN urges the Mayor to make a formal declaration for the transfer of the USS Iowa to the Port of San Francisco, requiring it to designate a pier assignment without further delay.

The CSFN is an umbrella organization representing more than forty groups from throughout the city. The CSFN urges your strong support and action on this resolution.

Thanking you in advance for your support and action.

Sincerely,



Barbara Meskunas
President

[Full resolution attached.]

WHEREAS. San Francisco is now in the final process of acquiring the USS Iowa as a historic ship memorial and museum. San Francisco is fortunate to have the opportunity to acquire this great ship and the many benefits that it has to offer.

WHEREAS. The ship can not be released to San Francisco until an actual pier assignment has been made by the city. There are a number of pier locations that have been represented to Congress and the Navy by the Port of San Francisco as being suitable for berthing the USS IOWA but to date no selection has been made. Continuous delay of a pier selection could jeopardize the transfer of the USS Iowa to San Francisco.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED. That the CSFN urges the Mayor to make a formal declaration for the transfer of the USS IOWA to the Port of San Francisco, requiring it to designate a pier assignment without further delay.

Vietnam Veterans Guests of Honor During VFW's Recognition Week

Kansas City, MO, April 29, 2005--Thirty years ago, Vietnam veterans were just a statistic --- one of 3.4 million military personnel who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

Combat weary and homesick, they returned home minus the welcome wagon and found Americans mired in a public debate about the rights and wrongs of a very unpopular war. Even though they were caught in the crossfire, combat veterans of the Vietnam War were still proud to have served and, more importantly, to come home alive.

Thanks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, America now has an opportunity to "welcome home" and thank Vietnam veterans for their service and sacrifices. From May 1-7, VFW Posts worldwide will be honoring Vietnam veterans by holding celebrations in their honor to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. It will be a weeklong celebration from coast to coast, according to VFW National Commander John Furgess.

"This is an opportunity for the nation, once again, to give our Vietnam veterans their due and thank them for their extraordinary efforts and achievements," Furgess, an Army Vietnam veteran, said. "Those who served did so out of a sense of duty and because they had a deep and abiding love for their country."

Many of the VFW Posts and local communities are planning to distribute recognition certificates or medals to Vietnam veterans during the week. Some states, such as Iowa, have issued official proclamations in honor of the Vietnam veterans to remind all Americans of their contributions to freedom and to the nation.

The week-long celebration is being held in conjunction with Loyalty Day, which began May 1, 1921, to counteract communist May Day exhibitions and to proclaim American patriotism and love of country.

If you are a Vietnam veteran and would like to participate in the celebration, visit your local VFW Post.

similar certification criteria and review processes to those applied by DGS. (Held Under Submission in Assembly Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy)

SB 115 (Florez) identifies the Department of General Services (DGS) as the administrative agency of the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program except where DGS is conflicted out of that role due to its other administrative actions. This bill also established DGS' duties as administrative agency and goals for the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program. Additionally, SB 115 requires the Small Business Advocate within DGS to provide services to both certified small businesses and disabled veteran business enterprises. This bill is substantially similar to AB 1592 of 2003-2004 (Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee) that was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. (Pending in Senate Government Modernization, Efficiency, and Accountability)

SB 320 (Machado) prohibits a business from applying to become a disabled veteran business enterprise for three years if the applicant business has received an adverse action in previously being or attempting to become a certified disabled veteran business enterprise. This bill also establishes procedures for bidders and awarding departments to ensure compliance in contract award and execution. (Pending in Senate Veterans Affairs)

SB 828 (Maldonado) exempts certain business requirements and corresponding certifications for state contracts of \$5,000 or less. (Pending in Senate Government Modernization, Efficiency, and Accountability)

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION :

Support

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California
Veterans Employment Committee of San Mateo County
Veterans Affiliated Council
Several individual letter in support

AB 410
Page 5

Opposition

Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California

Analysis Prepared by : Anthony Newman / V. A. / (916) 319-3550

all to DGS as required by current law.

The author has introduced this bill as a mechanism to enhance the participation of DVBE's in the attainment of state contracts. The author points to the state-mandated award of a 5% bidding preference to small businesses by state agencies and a corresponding result of small businesses securing 30% of state contracts in Fiscal Year 2001-2002 as an illustration of the success of such bidding preferences.

The author also states this bill is timely and complements other recent legislation, including Assembly Bill 669 (Cohn) (Chapter 623, Statutes of 2003) regarding DVBE contracts with state agencies that includes enhanced procedures for certification of these companies and sanctions for incorrect or fraudulent activities.

Suggested Committee Amendments: The committee may wish to consider whether a sunset clause should be included in the bill so that the issue could be re-evaluated to determine whether the bill's objectives have been obtained.

Arguments in Support: According to supporters, Californians have been activated through the National Guard/Reserves, and unfortunately, with the scope of hostilities overseas many may suffer disabilities as a result of defending our State and Country. Many veterans when returning home find it harder and harder to obtain decent paying jobs and decide to go into business to support themselves and their families. This bill provides them an opportunity to do just that; to provide a service and/or product to the state at a fair market price.

Arguments in Opposition : Opponents express their appreciation of the author's intent to facilitate additional business opportunities for DVBE's. However, opponents state their preference to the approach of this bill is the repeal of unspecified laws enacted in previous legislative sessions they regard as onerous and anti-business.

Related Legislation

AB 348 (Arambula) authorizes the Department of General Services (DGS) to accept certification of a small business made by a local agency if it determines the local agency has applied similar certification criteria and review processes to those

AB 410
Page 4

applied by DGS. (Pending in Assembly Appropriations)

AB 854 (Bass) authorizes the Department of General Services (DGS) to accept certification of a small business made by a local agency if it determines the local agency has applied

AB 410
Page 2

fewer employees, and average annual gross receipts of \$10 million or less over the previous three years, or is a manufacturer, as defined, with a 100 or fewer employees.

4) Defines "disabled veterans business enterprise" as an enterprise that has been certified as meeting specified qualifications, including majority-ownership by one or more disabled veterans, and management and control of the daily business operations are by one or more disabled veterans.

FISCAL EFFECT : Unknown

COMMENTS :

The 3% disabled veteran business enterprise participation goal in state contracts impacted by this bill was established several legislative sessions ago by Assembly Bill 409 (Dickerson) (Chapter 767, Statutes of 1999). However, given other conditions placed upon the award of these public contracts, state agencies have few specific methods to attain this goal. The institution of a DVBE bidding preference may be a mechanism to help agencies attain this goal.

State agencies may be reaching a significant portion of this 3% goal due to the existing small business bidding preference agencies are required to issue in these same types of contracts.

Many DVBE's are also small businesses and are eligible to receive the small business bidding preference. If this bill becomes law, it is reasonable the 3% disabled veteran business enterprise contracting goal would be met and could be surpassed given many businesses could potentially receive both a small business and a disabled veteran business enterprise preference subject to the limitations of this bill and existing law.

According to the author, state agencies are not attaining the 3% participation goal for DVBE's as established in current law. It is further asserted state agencies are actually losing ground in reaching this goal. The author points to data provided by the most-recent DGS report of state contract awards to disabled veteran business enterprises to substantiate this argument. For Fiscal Year 2001-2002, DGS-compiled numbers regarding state agency contract awards show 2.8% of these contracts went to disabled veteran business enterprises. In Fiscal Year 2002-2003, this share of awards dropped to 2.7%. It is acknowledged these reports may not reflect a complete data set

□

AB 410
Page 3

as not all departments are reporting in a timely fashion or at

AB 410
Page 1

Date of Hearing: April 26, 2005

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mike Gordon, Chair

AB 410 (Yee) - As Amended: April 12, 2005

SUBJECT : Disabled veteran business enterprises.

SUMMARY : Creates a 10% bidding preference for certified disabled veteran business enterprises (DVBE) in bids for contracts for specified goods and services. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Creates a 10% bidding preference to be issued by state agencies and local agencies expending state funds, including school districts, to certified DVBE's submitting specified bids when an agency is to award the contract to the qualified bidder.
- 2) Creates a maximum 10% bidding preference per Department of General Services (DGS) regulations to be issued by state agencies and local agencies expending state funds to certified businesses that are not DVBE's, but provide for disabled veteran business enterprise subcontractors in the bid when submitting specified contract bids.
- 3) When an agency is to award the contract to the qualified bidder the bidder must meet specifications that the bid is at the lowest cost or earns the highest score based upon considerations in addition cost.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides with respect to contracts for construction, goods or services that small business receive a 5% bid preference, not to exceed \$50,000 per bid or \$100,000 per bid in combination with any other bid preference.
- 2) Establishes a 3% statewide participation goal for DVBE's for specified types of contracts.
- 3) Defines "small business" as an independently owned and operated business that is not dominant in its field of operation, the principal office of which is located in California, and that, together with affiliates, has 100 or



San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

Monday, June 06, 2005
6:00 PM

War memorial Veterans' Building
410 Van Ness Ave, Room 223
San Francisco, CA 94102

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AGENDA

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER
- ❖ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ❖ ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
- ❖ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- ❖ PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Commission By-Laws – Commissioner Champagne
2. Commission Goals, Plans & Funding – Commissioner Levin
3. Commission Appointees & Vacancies – Commissioners et al
4. County Veterans' Service Office Report - Commissioner Cook
5. Department of Veterans Affairs Report – Commissioner Gibbs
6. Health & Welfare (Homeless & Disabled Veterans) Report – Commissioner Buck
7. Legislation Report – Commissioner Zweir
8. National Veterans' Service Organizations Reports – Commissioner Wong
9. Memorial Day Ceremony Report – Commissioner Levin

New Business:

- ❖ Mayoral Seat Vacancy – Commissioner Cook will report on her inquiry with the appropriate steps one should make to become a Mayoral Appointment to the VAC
- ❖ Follow up on letter to the City Attorney recognizing him for his continued support...

Announcements:

- ❖ Current announcements of interest

Next meeting June 06, 2005 @ 6:00 PM, Room 223 War Memorial Veterans' Building

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June 06, 2005

MINUTES

- ❖ Commission meeting was called order at 6:20 PM with a quorum
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance was led by all
- ❖ Roll Call of Officers – All present
- ❖ Commission Agenda was approved
- ❖ Minutes were approved

Commissioners Present: Cheryl D. Cook, Ralph E. Gibson, Sr., Jill Buck, Raymond Wong, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson, George Gibbs, Charles "Corky" Reed, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin
Commissioners Absent: Aaron Zeff, Veronika Cauley, Brian Zweir, and Renie Champagne

Guests: Edwin Wilkerson

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JUL 26 2005

There is one (1) vacant seat – Mayoral Appointment

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Correspondence to the Commission: Commissioner Cook read an email sent on June 06, 2005 @ 3:13 PM from Ms Ruby Tourk of the Mayor's Office through Marti Paschal in the Controller's Office requesting the names of Commissioners who have served 2 terms or more. The request was in response to Supervisor Peskin's proposed charter amendment limiting terms. Commissioner will send the list to Ms. Tourk. Commissioner Cook read another email from the Mayor inviting all Commissioners, Dept Heads and the Mayor's Staff of the LGBT Community to join the Mayor for a photo celebrating Gay Pride Month...June 27, 5:00 PM on the steps of City hall (Polk St. side).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

COMMITTEE and GENERAL REPORTS:

- ❖ By-Laws – No Report
- ❖ Goals/Plans/Funding – Commissioner Levin discussed the mission and responsibility of this Commission; to advise and inform the Board of Supervisors and Mayor. Commissioner Levin stressed the importance of this Commission to stay visible and viable and that this committee should be the priority of the whole Commission. General discussion on ways to “resuscitate” this Commission and keep the BOS and Mayor regularly informed and advised ranged from “resolutions” through the BOS, to direct letters to the Mayor, to attending BOS meetings and speaking during “Public Comment”.
- ❖ Commission Appointments and Vacancies - ** although this is not a recognized “committee”, the Commission feels the issue of filling vacant seats should be discussed at regular meetings. The Rules Committee should be updated on a regular basis and the Commission should be made aware of applicants.
- ❖ County Veterans Service Office – Commissioner Cook reported on the recent Project Homeless Connect effort and the large numbers of volunteers that participated. She encouraged Commissioners to volunteer at future PHC events.
- ❖ Dept of Veterans Affairs – Commissioner Gibbs reported that the Men’s Place (Shelter) at Fremont & Harrison is closing, 25 beds designated for homeless veterans will be lost. The 13th Street HCHV Clinic has lost 4 social workers. A motion from Commissioner Wilson to request the Mayor send a letter to the VA Medical Center, Sheila Cullen, requesting an increase to the HCHV staffing shortage, was 2nd by Commissioner Reed...Unanimous vote. Commissioner Buck and Mr. Wilkerson will draft a letter from the Commission to the Mayor urging him to write Director Cullen. This is an immediate action item.
- ❖ Health & Welfare – Commissioner Buck continues her report on the VA’s survey called CHALENG. She sent an email on May 31, 2005 to the authors of the survey questioning their results of April 2004 stating “child care was the #1 unmet need of veterans” ... She will report back on any response at the August meeting.
- ❖ Legislation Report – No Report
- ❖ National Veterans Service Organizations: VFW – Commissioner Wong reports that the VFW is involved in a program centering on families of active duty personnel that are having hardships with supporting their families while away – “Unmet Needs” offers monetary assistance to active duty families – More info can be found at www.unmetneeds.com
- ❖ Memorial Day Ceremony Report - Commissioner Levin thanked all the Commissioners who came and participated. There were approximately 3000 people in attendance, the Mayor was not present. It was acknowledged by all that Commissioner Levin was to be commended for his hard work and dedication to the yearly success of San Francisco’s only tribute to those in the military who gave their all.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

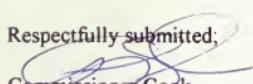
Commissioner Wilson announced that Bill Stephens and Marilyn Wong were in Washington, DC meeting with Senator Feinstein's staff regarding the U.S.S. IOWA. We were informed that a Feinstein aid was told that pleased to hear that Mayor Newsom has yet to give his support to berth the IOWA in San Francisco. Commissioner Wilson also alerted all to the resolution Supervisor Ma will introduce on June 07, 2005 at the BOS meeting, Supervisor Elsbernd will co-sponsor, urging that the U.S.S. IOWA come to San Francisco.

There will be no Commission meeting in July due to vacations.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 01, 2005 @ 6:00 PM, Room 223, Veterans War Memorial Building.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan @ 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Commissioner Cook
Acting Commission Secretary

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE.**

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To inspect documents referred to on agenda, please contact: Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Department of Aging and Adult Services/County Veterans Service Office, 875 Stevenson Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, Office: (415) 554-7100, Fax: (415) 554-7101, E-mail: sfcvso@sfgov.org

LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

Monday, August 01, 2005

6:00 PM

War Memorial Veterans' Building
410 Van Ness Ave, Room 223
San Francisco, CA 94102

AGENDA

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER
- ❖ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ❖ ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
- ❖ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- ❖ PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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1. Commission By-Laws – Commissioner Champagne
2. Commission Goals, Plans & Funding – Commissioner Levin
3. Commission Appointees & Vacancies – Commissioners et al
4. County Veterans' Service Office Report - Commissioner Cook
5. Department of Veterans Affairs Report – Commissioner Gibbs
6. Health & Welfare (Homeless & Disabled Veterans) Report – Commissioner Buck
7. Legislation Report – Commissioner Zweir
8. National Veterans' Service Organizations Reports – Commissioner Wong

Old Business:

- ❖ Update on U.S.S. Iowa
- ❖ Follow up on letter to the Mayor regarding the request that he write a letter to the VA Hospital Director addressing the staff shortage at the 13th Street HCHV Clinic.

Announcements:

- ❖ Current announcements of interest

Next meeting TBA due to Labor Day Holiday on September 05, 2005

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
875 STEVENSON STREET, SUITE 250
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103**

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MINUTES OF THE AUG. 1, 2005 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

SEP - 8 2005

President Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Minutes of the June 6. 2005 meeting was approved.

Commissioners present: Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley, George Gibbs, Ralph Gibson, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, Charles Reed, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson and Raymond Wong.

Commissioners Renie Champagne, Cheryl Cook, Aaron Zeff and Brian Zweir were not present.

Guests present were Bill Stephens, Marilyn Wong and Jim Maloney.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bill Stevens and Marilyn Wong, Directors of the USS IOWA Committee, presented a complete report on the present status. Marilyn introduced Jim Maloney, a leader of a group of gay veterans, who support bringing the USS IOWA to San Francisco. He reviewed their efforts. Additional productive comments were made by Commissioners Cauley, Buck, Wilson, and Levin. Conclusion of the informative discussion was that the Commission is very disappointed with the negative 8 to 3 vote of the Board of Supervisors and that we will continue our efforts to bring the USS IOWA to San Francisco. Bud Wilson suggested that we send a letter to the Mayor conveying our support for the USS IOWA and asking him to meet with us. A motion was made by Ralph Gipson, with a second by Fred Gomez. The motion was passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMISSION GOALS, PLANS & FUNDING

Commissioner Levin commended Bud Wilson for his recent efforts in support of the USS IOWA and his great work with the Board of Supervisors.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

Commissioner Levin reported that we still have two openings. One from the Mayor and one from the Board.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Commissioner Gibbs reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs opened a center in Sacramento, to help homeless veterans.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Commissioner Buck reported on her efforts to gather information about the VA's survey called CHALENG. They still continue to push for funding for care for the children of homeless veterans, when their own survey showed that 98% of homeless veterans are single men.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Commissioner Wong reported that the VFW is against the present funding for the VA and they support a 14% increase. He also reported with the aid of Commissioner Reed, that New Zealand will have a salute and ceremony honoring American veterans that served in New Zealand, during World War II. The event will be held at Yerba Buena Gardens, on August 5th.

MEMORIAL DAY 2006

Commissioner Levin reported that in June he went to Camp Parks to thank the 91 Division for their support. He also met with the leaders of the San Francisco ROTC, that were in training at Parks and he attended their staff meeting at Lincoln High.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Cauley reported that she will speak at an event and she will give us a report at the next meeting.

Commissioner Reed reported that he will attend an event honoring a Civil War General and he will give a report at the next meeting.

Because of Labor Day, the next meeting will be held on Sept. 12, 2005, 6:00 p.m., Room 223, Veterans War Memorial Building.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, Acting Commission Secretary.



San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

Monday, SEPT. 12, 2005

6:00 PM

War Memorial Veterans' Building
410 Van Ness Ave, Room 223
San Francisco, CA 94102

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AGENDA

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER
- ❖ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ❖ ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
- ❖ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- ❖ PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

09-05-05 P02:00 REV0

1. Commission By-Laws – Commissioner Champagne
2. Commission Goals, Plans & Funding – Commissioner Levin
3. Commission Appointees & Vacancies – Commissioners et al
4. County Veterans' Service Office Report - Commissioner Cook
5. Department of Veterans Affairs Report – Commissioner Gibbs
6. Health & Welfare (Homeless & Disabled Veterans) Report – Commissioner Buck
7. Legislation Report – Commissioner Zweir
8. National Veterans' Service Organizations Reports – Commissioner Wong

Old Business:

- ❖ Update on U.S.S.

Announcements:

- ❖ Current announcements of interest

Next meeting

September 12, 2005



San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

Monday, SEPT. 12, 2005
6:00 PM

War Memorial Veterans' Building
410 Van Ness Ave, Room 223
San Francisco, CA 94102

AGENDA

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER
- ❖ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ❖ ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS
- ❖ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- ❖ PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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8. National Veterans' Service Organizations Reports – Commissioner Wong

Old Business:

- ❖ Update on U.S.S. IOWA

Announcements:

- ❖ Current announcements of interest

Next meeting

September 12, 2005

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San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

September 12, 2005

MINUTES

- ❖ Commission meeting was called order at 6:10 PM with a quorum
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance was led by all
- ❖ Roll Call of Officers – All present
- ❖ Commission Agenda was approved
- ❖ Minutes were approved from August 02, 2005 meeting

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Commissioners Present: Cheryl D. Cook, Ralph E. Gibson, Sr., Jill Buck, Raymond Wong, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson, Charles "Corky" Reed, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin

Commissioners Absent: Brian Zweir, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, and George Gibbs

Deputy City Attorney, Wayne Snodgrass was present.

There are 2 vacancies: 1 Mayoral Appointment & 1 Board of Supervisors Appointment

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bill Stephens gave an update on the current status of the continuing plight of berthing the USS IOWA at a SF pier. A new DRAFT resolution to be presented by Supervisor Ma has been prepared and now includes a financial plan, proposes a name change to HSS @ Peace Square, and a statement of equality that includes ALL minorities, a historical tribute and memorial to ALL veterans. General discussions and comments on the topic ensued.

COMMITTEE and GENERAL REPORTS:

- ❖ By-Laws – No Report
- ❖ Goals/Plans/Funding – Commissioner Levin made it clear that our immediate goal currently is the USS IOWA ...
- ❖ Commission Appointments and Vacancies - ** although this is not a "policy making" commission, the Commission feels the issue of filling vacant seats should be discussed at regular meetings. The Rules Committee should be updated on a regular basis and the Commission should be made aware of applicants. There are currently 2 vacant seats, One Mayoral Appointment and One Board of Supervisor's Appointment
- ❖ County Veterans Service Office – No Report.
- ❖ Dept of Veterans Affairs: No Report
- ❖ Health & Welfare – No Report
- ❖ Legislation Report – See attached Legislative Update dated August 08, 2005
- ❖ National Veterans Service Organizations: VFW – Commissioner Wong reports that the VFW has established a Hurricane Katrina Relief effort...see attachment

New Business:

Commissioners were asked to contribute in some way to “relief efforts” established in response to the hurricane devastation, Commissioner Buck suggested donating blood.

Commissioner Cook raised an issue of concern about room not being setup for commission meetings. Commissioner Gibson offered to remind Vince Rios at least 2 workdays prior to meetings.

Announcements:

There will be a USS IOWA Rally September 13, 2005 on Polk St between McAllister and Grove..

Veterans' Day Parade will be held on Sunday, November 06, 2005 – Commissioner Champagne's family will be coordinating the parade.

Fleet Week starts October 09, 2005

Meeting was adjourned @ 8:00 PM in memory of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in memory of Harry Wong, Past District Commander of the VFW.

Next Commission meeting will be Monday, October 03, 2005 @ 6:00 PM, Room 223 War Memorial Veterans' Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Acting Commission Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

POST OFFICE BOX 942895
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 94295-0001
(916) 653-2192

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE –AUGUST 8, 2005****AB 160 COGDILL****Vehicles: Special License Plates (Amended June 23, 2005)**

This bill would exempt the surviving spouse of a former American prisoner of war or of a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from payment of the specified fees and charges if that spouse elects to retain the special license plates. The bill would authorize a member of the former prisoner of war or the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient's family to retain one of the special license plates as a family heirloom by agreeing not to use the plates for registration purposes.

STATUS: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 255 CHAVEZ**California Military Families Support Program: life insurance (Amended April 11, 2005)**

This bill would require the Military Department to pay for life insurance of every qualified active duty member of the California State Military Reserve who is a California resident in a policy amount of \$250,000. This bill would continuously appropriate moneys from the General Fund to the Military Department to pay for this life insurance.

STATUS: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 294 BLAKESLEE**National Guard: life insurance premium reimbursement (Amended May 11, 2005)**

This bill would authorize a refundable credit under the Personal Income Tax Law for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2005, and before January 1, 2009, in an amount equal to the amount paid or incurred by a National Guard member on active federal service or full-time National Guard duty on behalf of the United States during the taxable year for qualified life insurance premiums not to exceed \$200. The bill would require the refunds to be paid from the Tax Relief and Refund Account.

STATUS: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 357 S. HORTON**Taxpayer contributions: Veterans' Quality of Life Fund**

This bill would allow taxpayers to designate on their tax returns that a specified amount in excess of their tax liability be transferred to the Veterans' Quality of Life Fund, which would be created by this bill. The bill would provide that a voluntary contribution designation for this fund may not be added on the tax return until another voluntary contribution designation is removed from that return.

STATUS: On the Senate floor.

AB 410 YEE**Disabled veteran business enterprises (Amended April 12, 2005)**

This bill would create a 10% bid preference for disabled veteran business enterprises in bids for contracts for specified goods and services. This bill would also limit the amount of this preference to \$50,000 per bid and would limit the combined preferences that a disabled veteran business enterprise may receive to \$500,000 per contract.

STATUS: In the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee.

AB 599 GORDON**Mental health account: primary goals: California veterans
(Amended May 23, 2005)**

This bill relates to existing law that sets forth the primary goals of the mental health account of a local mental health unit trust fund. The bill would include within the priority goals of an account, veterans in need of mental health services who are not eligible for care by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs or other federal health care providers. The bill would require the county to refer the veteran to the county veterans service officer prior to denying eligibility.

STATUS: On the Senate floor.

AB 720 VILLINES**California State University: Observance of Veterans Day
(Amended June 22, 2005)**

The bill would require every campus of the California State University to observe November 11 as a holiday by closing on that day. The bill would also require the university to observe the following Monday as the Veterans Day holiday when November 11 falls on a Sunday, and to observe the preceding Friday as the Veterans Day holiday when November 11 falls on a Saturday.

STATUS: On the Senate floor.

AB 787 DEVORE**Veterans: impersonating a veteran: crime (Amended June 28, 2005)**

This bill would make it a misdemeanor for a person to falsely claim to be, or present himself or herself to be a veteran member of the armed forces of the United States, with the intent to defraud. The bill would not apply to face-to-face solicitations involving less than \$10.

STATUS: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 828 COHN**Public postsecondary education: tuition and fee waiver for military veterans (Amended March 29, 2005)**

This bill would provide that any person who is honorably serving in, or has been honorably discharged from, the armed forces of the United States, and any person who is a member of the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia, and who is, or previously has been, called to active service, would not be subject to tuition or fees at any campus of the University of California, the California State University, or the California Community Colleges if he or she is a California resident. These provisions would only apply to the University of California to the extent that the regents make them applicable by resolution.

STATUS: In the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

AB 922 SALINAS**Veterans cemeteries: Central Coast Veterans Cemetery**

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to design, develop, and construct a state-owned and state-operated Central Coast Veterans Cemetery to be located at the former Ford Ord. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that the Monterey Board of Supervisors establish a trust fund for receipt of donations for the annual maintenance costs of the cemetery. The bill would also repeal the provisions relating to the creation of, and the duties imposed on, the Governor's Commission on State Veterans Cemeteries.

STATUS: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1021 WALTERS**Military and veterans**

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to existing law that the Department of Veterans Affairs has specified powers and duties relating to military veterans.

STATUS: In the Assembly.

AB 1399 GARCIA**Student financial aid**

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to ensure that any child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, a member of the California National Guard, who serves at any time between September 11, 2001, and the end of the conflict in Iraq, is eligible to receive a Cal Grant award.

STATUS: In the Assembly.

AB 1436 BACA

**Student financial aid: Cal Grant Program: military veterans
(Amended April 27, 2005)**

This bill would provide that any California resident who has been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States, or who is, or who has been, a member of the California National Guard, the California State Military Reserve, or the California Naval Militia, and who, in that capacity, was called to active service, is eligible for a Cal Grant award if he or she is enrolled for at least the required academic loan in a qualifying institution, he or she submits an application in a timely manner, and he or she meets the income eligibility criteria for the Cal Grant A award.

STATUS: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1439 VA COMM.

Veterans benefits

This bill would amend existing law that authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans in acquiring homes and farms by providing that the department may purchase a farm or home which the department then sells to a purchaser and that limits the amount that the department may expend for purchasing a home or constructing a dwelling. The bill would raise the expenditure limits to 125% of the maximum Fannie Mae loan limit for a single-family home. The bill would increase the amount the department may pay for a farm.

STATUS: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1542 PARRA

Crimes by veterans: sentencing (Amended June 28, 2005)

This bill would revise provisions of existing law relating to the sentencing for crimes committed by veterans to provide the provisions shall apply to any person convicted of a misdemeanor who would otherwise be sentenced to county jail, or who is placed on probation who would otherwise be sentenced to state prison, who alleges that he or she committed the offense as a result of post traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or psychological problems stemming from military service in a combat theater.

STATUS: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1666 FROMMER**Military service: benefits (Amended July 6, 2005)**

This bill would provide protections for members of the National Guard ordered to active duty with respect to power of attorney, termination of a mobile telephony services contract, military leave of absence from specified educational facilities, waiver of attorney membership fees, payment of arrearages under terminated motor vehicle leases, and continuation of gas, electric, water, sewer, and garbage and refuse service.

STATUS: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1725 LA MALFA**Veterans homes (Amended June 22, 2005)**

This bill would allow the use of the design-build construction procurement process for additional veterans homes to be located in Fresno and Shasta Counties. This bill would require the construction of the veterans homes in Redding and Fresno to be treated as separate public works projects that are subject to separate bids. The bill would require the report on the progress of the acquisition, design, equipping, construction, establishment, and expansion of veterans homes to include a synopsis on the efficacy of the design-build procurement process.

STATUS: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AJR 2 EVANS**Full benefits of Filipino veterans (Amended May 5, 2005)**

This measure would memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to honor the contributions of Filipino-American war veterans and would direct the federal government to immediately pay promised veterans' benefits as the first order of business of the 109th Congress.

STATUS: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 115 FLOREZ**Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program (Amended June 27, 2005)**

This bill would specify that the Department of General Services is the administering agency of the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program except in the cases of contracts for professional bond services. The bill would specify the duties of the Department of General Services in meeting that requirement. The bill would set standards for meeting the program's participation goals. The bill would require the small business advocate to provide services to certified small businesses and certified disabled veteran business enterprises.

STATUS: On the Assembly floor.

SB 310 CHESBRO**Veterans homes: funding (Amended June 27, 2005)**

This bill would require the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fund established at the Yountville Veterans Home to maintain a reserve in the amount of \$2 million.

STATUS: On the Assembly floor.

SB 320 MACHADO

Disabled veteran business enterprises: certification (Amended June 27, 2005)

This bill would preclude a business enterprise and its owners, partners, and principals from applying for certification as a disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE) for 3 years under specified circumstances. The bill would establish procedures for bidders and awarding departments to follow to ensure compliance. The bill would permit awarding departments to retain 5% from each payment due under the contract to ensure compliance with participation goals. It would provide for the payment of retention funds when the contractor complies with the 3% goal.

STATUS: In the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee.

SB 480 DENHAM

Central Coast Veterans Cemetery: maintenance (Amended May 18, 2005)

This bill would provide that all moneys received for the maintenance of the cemetery shall be deposited in the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Maintenance Fund, which the bill would create.

STATUS: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 766 VA COMM.

Veterans: farm and home purchases

This bill relates to existing law that permits the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into a master agreement with one or more insurance companies to provide life or disability insurance coverage for purchasers of farms or homes under the program. The bill would require the master agreement to provide for the maintenance of reserves, as the department deems appropriate and prudent. The bill would prohibit these reserves from being more than 25% in excess of actuarial requirements plus a reasonable contingency reserve.

STATUS: In the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

SB 1005 FLOREZ

Property tax exemption: spouses of deceased veterans

This bill would, beginning with the lien date for the 2006-07 fiscal year, fully exempt from property taxation the principal residence of the unmarried surviving spouse of a person that died as a result of a service-connected disease or injury and the principal residence of the unmarried surviving spouse of a qualified public safety officer that died in the line of duty.

STATUS: In the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

Federal Legislation

ACTION IS REQUESTED CAL-VET FARM AND HOME LOAN PROGRAM

Another effort is now underway in the Congress to enable persons who have entered military service since January 1977 eligible for the Cal-Vet Program - and for similar programs in four other states.

This effort is particularly important for our wartime veterans who served in the Desert Storm operations and, more recently, who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is no logical reason why benefits which were provided to veterans of this state for the past 80 years, including World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War, should be denied to wartime veterans who have served in equally significant operations in recent years.

H.R. 2952 has been introduced to correct this inequity. It will not be easy to get this bill passed. Similar efforts have been made in recent years without success. However, this may be the year that Members of Congress would be willing to consider the extension of the program to recent veterans.

It will be important to try to convince every Member of Congress from California to co-sponsor this legislation. So far, 12 Members have signed on:

Bob Filner [CA-51 - Chula Vista]
Wally Herger [CA-2 - Chico]
Brad Sherman [CA-27 - Sherman Oaks]
Howard L. Berman [CA-28 - Van Nuys]
Ken Calvert [CA-44 - Riverside]
Jim Costa [CA-20 - Fresno]
Susan A. Davis [CA-53 - San Diego]
Sam Farr [CA-17 - Salinas]
Duncan Hunter [CA-52 - El Cajon]
Adam Schiff [CA-29 - Pasadena]
Ellen O. Tauscher [CA-10 - Walnut Creek]
Henry A. Waxman [CA-30 - Los Angeles]

Post and Auxiliary members who reside in other Congressional Districts are requested to communicate with their Representatives and urge them to co-sponsor H.R. 2952.

Incidentally, it would also be nice for the constituents of the above Members of Congress to send a "thank you" letter for their support, but also to ask them to try to have Congress take early action on this bill.

The Little Post That Could

By Caylyn L Rayburn

DeRidder, LA, Sept. 7, 2005--Sunday, August 28, proved to be a formidable night for VFW Post 3619 in DeRidder. The regular Sunday bingo session was just ending when the first evacuees wandered in.

DeRidder is located in the heart of Beauregard Parish along the hurricane evacuation route of U.S. highway 171. In September of 2004 Post 3619 was selected as a possible hurricane evacuation site for hurricane Ivan. During that voluntary evacuation the post entertained two British tourist that were vacationing in New Orleans who were planning to go to Beaumont Texas.

Local area merchants knew this, so when Katrina evacuees trickled into town and asked for shelter information, they were directed to the local VFW.

Unfortunately, Katrina and the subsequent flooding of New Orleans happened so fast that no contact with the local authorities or preparation for an evacuation shelter had been made before the first evacuees arrived.

That was not a factor for this VFW Post with the "can do" attitude. Volunteers rallied to Post Commander Frank Rossi's call, and the mad scramble began as they acquired bedding and supplies to make it through the night.

By midnight Sunday there were 40 evacuees. Monday that number grew to 140, and on Tuesday the impromptu shelter was considered to be at maximum capacity with 206 evacuees.

The first 72 hours looked like controlled chaos as the infrastructure slowly came together. When Wednesday dawned, Post 3619's shelter was running like hurricane evacuation was something they had been doing for years. A command post was set up in the quartermaster's office. Volunteers immediately begin manning the phone bank, fielding calls from a concerned community regarding the needs of the shelter and the evacuees.

Logistics has been a nightmare, not for the lack of supplies, but from an overwhelming response from the city of DeRidder and Beauregard Parish. Two portable buildings have been purchased to store and catalog the supplies. While this is a good thing at present, everyone is constantly reminded that this is a situation that is not likely to change anytime soon.

To help the evacuees, the Post has installed laundry facilities and converted two of its restrooms into permanent shower areas. In addition, the Post is serving three meals a day to the shelter residents.

Life at the shelter has taken on a family like atmosphere as evacuees and the Post's volunteer staff work together to try and bring some normalcy and routine to this horrible reality.

Going into Labor Day weekend, 50 people had found employment, and the children had been placed in school.

The day starts at 0530. Lunches are packed for the workers before they head off to work, and the children are readied to meet the school bus that makes a special stop at the Post to pick them up.

Today is day 10 at the shelter, and now there are several churches housing evacuees. They all look to Post 3619 for guidance because the Post set the standard for this type of operation and can provide "lessons learned."

Commander Rossi, his staff of volunteers, and the Ladies Auxiliary are true examples of what the Veterans of Foreign Wars should be as an organization. The work that they have done is phenomenal and will continue to be so as this tragedy goes on.

Beauregard Parish has a population of just under 30,000. Every resident now knows the story of the Post's depth of compassion and sing the praises of these fine men and women. To them, Post 3619's efforts have been nothing less than heroic.

Caylyn L Rayburn is Past 5th District Commander, Department of Louisiana

Hurricane Katrina: How You Can Help

Kansas City, MO, Aug. 30, 2005--In the first challenge of his administration, newly elected Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander James R. Mueller, of O'Fallon, Mo., wasted no time in leading VFW efforts to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"It is critical that VFW Departments [states] respond quickly to ensure that the citizens of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama receive all of the assistance we can provide them," said Mueller, who was elected August 25 at the 1.8 million-member veterans organization's 106th national convention in Salt Lake City. "During difficult times like these, we must unite as an organization to do everything we can to make sure the appropriate resources are available to help rebuild these communities."

According to Mueller, many of those affected by the hurricane are military families.

"Many of the National Guard, Air National Guard and Reservists in the affected areas are deployed," he said. "It is heart-breaking for those families who have loved ones deployed to have to cope with such a disaster by themselves. It also is a tragic situation for those service men and women who are deployed thousands of miles away from the disaster and are unable to contribute any help to their suffering families. It is a very emotional time for both. We [the VFW] must go to extraordinary means to ensure our troops that we will take care of their families while they are deployed.."

The VFW is centering its relief efforts on monetary donations because clothing, food and building-materials drives will cause logistical problems.

"The best way that we can help is through *direct donations* to the Department Headquarters of Mississippi and Louisiana. Donation checks need to be clearly marked for disaster relief," he added. "With your help, the VFW can play an important role in assisting those who have been hurt by this weather-related disaster."

To help, send your donations to:

- Precilla Wilkewitz, Adjutant
Department of Louisiana, VFW
10185 Mammoth Avenue
Baton Rouge, La. 70814-4421

- Johnnie L. Richard, Adjutant
Department of Mississippi, VFW
P.O. Box 2027
Jackson, Miss. 39225

The VFW assists all veterans and their families obtain veterans' entitlements and for the well being of those serving on active duty, in the National Guard and in the Reserves. Founded in 1899, the VFW is the largest organization of combat veterans in the nation with more than 9,000 Posts worldwide.

SAN FRANCISCO

9-7-05

Pro-gay approach tried on battleship skeptics

By Wyatt Buchanan
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

There's a new battle plan for bringing the battleship Iowa to San Francisco.

The battleship's supporters now hope to gain the support of city leaders by turning part of the vessel into a museum about the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and the contributions of gays, lesbians, ethnic minorities and women to the military.

The Board of Supervisors rejected the ship in July, and two supervisors explained their "no" votes by saying they objected to the military's policies toward gays and lesbians, while others opposed the war in Iraq.

"I think the Iowa could be a very powerful teaching tool regarding recruitment and U.S. defense policy," said Merylin Wong, president of the Historic Ship Memorial at Pacific Square, the San Francisco organization lobbying for the ship.

"There's a tremendous amount of archives documenting the contribution of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) veterans," she said. "It's all part of naval history, and it's all fact."

The ship is moored in Suisun Bay, and if San Francisco decides to bid for the Iowa, the city will face competition from Stockton, where city leaders already support the idea.

Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Tracy,

► **IOWA:** Page B10

Pro-gay campaign sought for ship

► IOWA

From Page B1

wants the ship to come to Stockton, while Sen. Diane Feinstein, a Democrat, wants it in San Francisco.

A spokesman for the Navy Historical Society, which evaluates exhibits that appear on board donated ships, said an exhibit about a controversial defense policy would need approval from the highest level, the secretary of the Navy.

That sort of thing would be judged on a case-by-case basis, said Jack Green, the historical society spokesman. "None of the [exhibits] I know of deal with social issues."

Contracts between the Navy and cities or nonprofit organizations that want to manage donated ships typically require that exhibits say nothing unflattering about the navy, government or military, Green said.

After the Board of Supervisors voted 8-3 in July against a resolution that asked local congressional leaders to support bringing the ship to the city, Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Bryan Duffy cited the unequal treatment of gays and lesbians by the military.

The ship already figures prominently in the history of gays in the military. An explosion in one of its gun turrets that killed 47 sailors in 1989 initially was blamed on an alleged murder-suicide that Navy officials said was carried out by a male sailor whose romantic advances to a fellow sailor were rebuffed.

After an investigation, the Navy could not determine what caused the explosion but announced that it was "most probably" sabotage, though the evidence was circumstantial and there was no proof that the sailor or his friend — who was married — were gay. Both were killed in the incident. Congress ordered its own review and found the most likely cause was a ramming error in the six-story mega gun.

The Navy apologized to the family of the sailor.

"This is an opportunity for San Francisco to be first in displaying the value of acceptance for minorities and others who have sacrificed their lives for this country," said Steve Boeckels, 31, a San Francisco resident. Boeckels graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1997 but was discharged from the Army under "don't ask, don't tell" in 2000.

Boeckels and two other San Francisco gay activists who work to change military policy contacted the historical ship organization with their proposal after the Board of Supervisors voted against bringing the ship to town.

They are now seeking support from other civil rights organizations, said Jim Maloney, director of the Military Education Initiative, an Atlanta-based organization that seeks veterans' support for gays and lesbians in the military.

"If we can have a museum that tells the history of LGBT service, that might be an opportunity to educate [people] and try to change their minds regarding gays and lesbians serving openly," Maloney said.

The group is working up a new resolution for the board to consider, but support for the new plan isn't clear-cut.

Maloney, who lives in San Francisco, has met with members of the mayor's staff and Duffy, whose district includes the largely gay Castro neighborhood.

But their support may depend on the moves of other players.

"I certainly can see how powerful it would be to have a ship containing an exhibit about gays and lesbians in the military — but part of my position is also that the city of Stockton has put up \$16 million, and the city of San Francisco is not putting up any money," said Duffy, who called the support of the mayor and the port "paramount."

Mayor Gavin Newsom's spokes-

man said the mayor was "open-minded" about bringing the ship to the city but that support from the Board of Supervisors is essential.

Port officials said they will look closer at the proposal for the ship, which is 887 feet long — just 34 feet more than the Transamerica building — if the board supports bringing it to town.

Several supervisors have talked with the port's director, Monique Moyer, said Renee Dunn, the port's spokeswoman, though the board has not formally asked for any recommendation.

Wong said the cost of bringing the Iowa to San Francisco would be covered by private donors. She said it will take 40,000 visitors annually to break even, and she expects it to surpass that goal.

Maloney and the other activists hope telling the stories of gays and lesbians in the military could lead to a reversal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and public opinion already is on the side of those seeking a policy change. A survey released Tuesday by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that 58 percent of Americans believe gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the military and 32 percent oppose such a change.

Gary Gates, a researcher with the Williams Project at the UCLA School of Law, estimates that if the military lifted its ban on gays serving openly, 41,000 additional male recruits would join the armed forces. More than 14,500 men now serving in the military are gay, he said. The Williams Project is a think tank specializing in sexual orientation law and public policy.

Last week, the California Legislature became the country's first legislature to ask the federal government to change its policy so gays and lesbians could serve openly.

E-mail Wyatt Buchanan at wbuchanan@schronicle.com.

September Is... National Preparedness Month

Get a Kit, Make a Plan,
Be Informed and Get Involved



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- Coalition Member List
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- Frequently Asked Questions

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Homeland Security



American Red Cross

Get More Information on National Preparedness Month

News Releases

Press Release

September 1, 2005

Contact: DHS Press Office, 202-282-8010

American Red Cross Press Office, Stacey Grissom 202-303-4462

Other Press Releases

9/01/05 Press

6/09/05 Press

COALITION FORCES MORE THAN DOUBLE IN SIZE TO JOIN HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE AMERICAN RED CROSS FOR NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2005

Hundreds of Activities Planned, Millions of Americans Will be Reached through the Month-Long Emergency Preparedness Initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 190 national organizations and all 56 states territories have joined the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action this September as part of National Preparedness Month 2005. The National Preparedness Month Coalition will distribute emergency preparedness information, host events and sponsor activities across the country to encourage individuals to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

"The devastation and tragic loss of life caused by Hurricane Katrina earlier this year reinforce the urgency of our coalition's work," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "We urge all Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for emergencies including getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan and learning more about how to respond to emergencies that could affect an area."

National Preparedness Month will offer Americans a variety of opportunities to learn more about preparing for emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist threats. Events, activities, and messages will encourage individuals to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, be informed about different types of threats and get involved in preparing their communities.

"For almost 125 years, preparedness has been a natural part of the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross. In the terrible aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, there could be no more important message than the need for Americans to get prepared for the next disaster. We are honored to join the Department of Homeland Security in this mission," said Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, Chairman of the American Red Cross.

This is the second annual National Preparedness Month. During the first National Preparedness Month, held in September 2004, a Coalition of more than 80 organizations and all 50 states and territories held hundreds of events and activities across the nation.

State and territory activities during the 2005 effort will range from distributing preparedness information at state fairs to issuing proclamations and holding meetings on emergency preparedness. The more than 190 national coalition will help reach millions of Americans via hundreds of events scheduled to take throughout September. In addition to hosting events, organizations will share preparedness information with their members, customers, employees and communities through websites, newsletters and public service announcements.

The following is a sample of the National Preparedness Month activities taking throughout September:

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will support National Preparedness Month through the Ready campaign and Citizen Corps. Citizen Corps, the Department's grassroots effort, will work with its more than 1,770 state local councils and partners to promote community-based preparedness, and training opportunities. In addition, in late September, Homeland Security will build on its successful Ready campaign, which encourages Americans to prepare for emergencies by launching Ready Kids, a tool to help parents and teachers educate children ages 8-12 about emergencies and how they can get their family prepared.
- The more than 900 American Red Cross field units will take preparedness messages to the local level with a variety of events and activities aimed at encouraging families to make and discuss their emergency communication plans. Public and private entities will come together and host blood drives. Outreach will be conducted where Americans live, learn and work including mass dissemination on September 22 of communications plan templates, Cross safety tubes to commuters at major transit stations during evening hour in multiple states in the Northeast.
- The New York City Office of Emergency Management will host a preparedness awareness day at Grand Central Station in midtown Manhattan on September 22. At the event, various city and community partners will distribute copies of pocket-sized Ready New York preparedness guide to commuters, and educate citizens about the ways they can prepare for emergencies.
- The Boeing Company will provide preparedness information to its approximately 151,000 employees by posting articles on emergency preparedness topics including personal preparedness, pet preparedness and business preparedness on its intranet throughout September. The company will also be distributing information through a variety of avenues including company sponsored fairs.
- The State of Tennessee is undertaking a series of statewide initiatives in the Governor proclaiming September as Preparedness Month; releasing service advertisements encouraging Tennesseans to prepare for emergencies; placing a preparedness message on the payroll slips of the State's 47,000 employees; and conducting Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training courses that will create approximately 25 new CERT programs statewide.
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has recently developed a brochure on national preparedness, which was distributed at the organization's 106th National Convention, August 20 - 25, 2005 in Salt Lake City, UT. In addition, VFW will mail copies of the new brochure to more than 9,000 VFW Posts worldwide and will highlight National Preparedness Month in its newsletters, bulletins and other publications, collectively reaching more than 2.4 million members throughout September.
- In September, the National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative will introduce a national outreach and awareness campaign, "People in Preparedness." This campaign includes the distribution of a multiple informational pamphlets, including a newly announced four-part pamphlet for disability-specific preparedness, and an instructional poster showcasing the integration of people with disabilities into emergency preparedness.
- The National Latino Peace Officers Association will distribute materials, including a booklet on emergency preparedness for the Latino community, to its members and the public.

Homeland Security's Listo brochures, to communities throughout the country, events, including Mexican Independence Day festivals, which draw more than 100,000 attendees annually, in Los Angeles and Houston on September

National Preparedness Month 2005 will officially launch with a daylong public emergency preparedness fair on September 1, 2005 at Union Station in Washington D.C. The event will kick off with Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and American Red Cross Chairman Bonnie McElveen-Hunter offering remarks on the importance of emergency preparedness. During the event, individuals will receive preparedness materials and learn about training opportunities from a number of National Preparedness Month Coalition organizations. Live on-stage demonstrations will take place throughout the day, including first aid and CPR, creating an emergency supply kit, and making a family communication plan.

National Preparedness Month 2005 is a nationwide effort co-sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools. Any event or activity conducted during National Preparedness Month is purely voluntary, and Homeland Security is not financially obligated to any National Preparedness Month Coalition Member. For more information visit www.Ready.gov/npm and click on the National Preparedness Month banner.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, a Cabinet-level federal agency, is leading the public emergency preparedness through the Ready campaign and Citizen Corps. Ready is a national public service advertising campaign produced by the Ad Council in partnership with Homeland Security that is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies. Citizen Corps, Homeland Security's grassroots effort, locates Ready's preparedness messages and provides local opportunities for citizens to receive emergency response training; participate in community exercises; and volunteer to support local emergency responders.

Governed by volunteers and supported by community donations, the American Red Cross is a nationwide network of nearly 900 locally supported chapters dedicated to saving lives and helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. By one million volunteers and 35,000 employees, the Red Cross annually provides relief to families affected by some 70,000 disasters, trains more than 15 million people in lifesaving skills and keeps U.S. military families connected worldwide. The Red Cross is the largest supplier of blood and blood products to more than 3,000 hospitals across the nation and also assists victims of international disasters and conflicts at locations worldwide. The American Red Cross is not a government agency.

To learn more about how you and your family can prepare for emergencies or get involved visit: www.ready.gov or www.redcross.org or www.citizencorps.gov



San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

October 03, 2005

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

≡ AGENDA

SEP 28 2005

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER
- ❖ THE PLEDGE
- ❖ APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- ❖ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2005
- ❖ PUBLIC COMMENT

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❖ COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. COMMISSION BY-LAWS: Commissioner Champagne – The Commission By-Laws are in need of updating and revision. The Chair has been inactive due to health concerns. Commissioner Zweir has been deployed to the Gulf Coast.
2. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS: Commissioner Levin – Review of ongoing Commission Goals; USS IOWA
3. COMMISSION SEAT VACANCIES: Commissioners et al – Update on current vacancies and the need to function as a full Commission
4. CVS Report: Commissioner Cook – Veterans Service Office continues to maintain 2 offices to better serve veterans, their dependents and survivors. The staff sees an average of 1,500 veterans/claimants in a six-month period. Outreach to homeless veterans continues to be the highest priority. The staff continues to participate in the Project Homeless Connect bi-monthly effort.
5. Dept of Veterans Affairs HCHV Report: Commissioner Gibbs – Updates and issues of concern from the VA Healthcare System.
6. Health & Welfare (Homeless & Disabled Veterans) Report: Commissioner Buck – Current status on research into CHALENG and how they are affecting the lives of veteran's families
7. Legislative Report: Commissioner Zweir – The latest legislation of interest is discussed
8. National Veterans' Service Organizations Reports: Commissioner Wong – updates on continuing efforts regarding veterans

New Business:

- ❖ Fleet Week
- ❖ Veterans Day Parade

Announcements & Information Sharing

Next meeting November 07, 2005, Room 223 @ 6:00 PM – Veterans' War Memorial Building

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Cheryl D. Cook at the County Veterans Service Office at (415) 554-7100 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

The SF Veterans Affairs Commission meetings are held at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104 on the 1st Monday of each month. The closest accessible BART station is located at Civic Center. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are the 47 Van Ness, the 71 Haight/Noriega, the 19 Polk, the F-Line streetcar beginning at the Ferry Building at Market out to Castro and the MUNI Metro at Van Ness and Civic Center. For information about MUNI accessible services call 923-6142. There is accessible parking available at the Civic Center Plaza Garage located at 355 McAllister, between Polk and Larkin, Level One near elevators. Metered street parking is also available. The hearing room is wheelchair accessible.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. *FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE.*

Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, FAX: (415) 554-7854
E-mail: Donna.Hall@sfgov.org

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at www.sfgov.org

To inspect documents referred to on agenda, please contact: Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Department of Aging and Adult Services/County Veterans Service Office, 875 Stevenson Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, Office: (415) 554-7100, Fax: (415) 554-7101, E-mail: sfcvso@sfgov.org

LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code sections 2.100 – 2.160] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900 San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317 and website www.sfgov.org/ethics.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
875 STEVENSON STREET, SUITE 250
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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MINUTES OF THE OCT. 3, 2005 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m., in room 104.

President Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Minutes of the Sept. 12, 2005 meeting was approved.

Commissioners present: Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Ralph Gibson, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson and Raymond Wong.

Commissioners Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley, Cheryl Cook, Charles Reed, Aaron Zeff and Brian Zweir were not present.

Guests present were Marilyn Wong, USS IOWA Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Levin introduced Staff Sgt. Shannon Alvarez, from the National Guard 2632nd Transportation Company, located in San Bruno. The unit has served in Iraq and they are planning an Awards Ceremony and Holiday Party on Dec. 3rd. They are asking us to support the event and help them to get a room in the Veterans Building for the event.

Marilyn Wong, Director of the USS IOWA Committee, presented a complete report on the present status. She reported that there would be a USS IOWA rally in front of City Hall on Oct. 4th. The Navy has not yet released the USS IOWA. She invited everyone to attend Fleet Week, Oct. 6 to 11. Commissioner Levin request a review of the financial situation. She conveyed the problem of fund raising, without the full support of the City. They are continuing to meet with members of the Board of Supervisors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

Commissioner Levin reported the Commissioner Cook was attending a County Veterans Service Officers Meeting in Southern California.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

Commissioner Levin reported that we still have two openings. One from the Mayor and one from the Board, when Aaron Zeff sends a letter to the Board of Supervisors.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Commissioner Gibbs reported that his Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Veterans Office will move to First and Harrison next year.

Commissioner Thompson reported that he attended a Service Officers Meeting with others from veterans groups. The dedication ceremony of the San Bruno Outpatient Clinic will be held on Oct. 26th. R. James Nicholson, Secretary, Dept. of Veterans Affairs will attend the event.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Commissioner Wong reported that the California Director of Veterans Affairs, Tom Johnson, has requested that the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs hold off on spending funds for Veterans Homes in California. He was concerned over management problems at Chula Vista and Barstow Veterans Homes. The Veterans of Foreign Wars supports his action, with the American Legion against his action.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

Commissioner Champagne reported that the Veterans Day Parade would be held on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2005, starting at 1:00 p.m. The parade starts at 2nd & Market, to the Reviewing Stand across from City Hall. Michael Thomas was selected to be the Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshall. Commissioner Levin reported that the Veterans Day Parade gets \$13,500 from the City, just like the Folsom Street Fair. Of all of San Francisco's parades, the Veterans Day Parade receives the least City funding and support.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Wong made a motion to have our Commission meetings in Room 104. Second by Commissioner Gomez. Motion passed.

Commissioner Wilson reported that the USS IOWA Committee would meet with Mayor Gavin Newsom on Oct. 7th. Wilson will be interviewed on Comcast and the show will aired on Oct. 7th. Marilyn Wong will on the Daily Show on Oct. 4th. All of which will get good PR for the IOWA.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, Acting Commission Secretary.

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, NOV. 7, 2005, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102**

AGENDA

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- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 7. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2006**

- 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. COMMISSION BY-LAWS**
 - B. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS**
 - C. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**
 - D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 - E. HEALTH & WELFARE**
 - F. LEGISLATION REPORT**
 - G. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS**
 - H. VETERANS DAY PARADE**

- 9. OLD BUSINESS**
- 10. NEW BUSINESS--COMMISSION SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL GUARD 2632ND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY'S AWARDS CEREMONY, DEC. 3RD, AT THE VETERANS BUILDING.**
- 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**

DECEMBER ELECTION BUSINESS MEETING DEC. 5, 2005.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

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San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

November 07, 2005

MINUTES

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

- ❖ Commission meeting was called order at 6:13 PM with a quorum
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance was led by all
- ❖ Roll Call of Officers – All present
- ❖ Commission Agenda was approved
- ❖ Minutes were approved from October 03, 2005 meeting –unanimous vote

NOV 29 2005

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Commissioners Present: Cheryl D. Cook, Ralph E. Gibson, Sr., Raymond Wong, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson, Charles "Corky" Reed, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, George Gibbs. Jill Buck

Commissioners Absent: Brian Zweir, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne,

Deputy City Attorney, Wayne Snodgrass was present.

There are 2 vacancies: 1 Mayoral Appointment & 1 Board of Supervisors Appointment

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marilyn Wong of the Historic Ships Memorial @ Pacific Square informed the Commission of the meeting with Mayor Newsom on October 07, 2005. During that meeting the Mayor stated that he would like to see the USS IOWA berthed in San Francisco. The US Navy is making a trip to SF and will accompany the Mayor, the BOS and other dignitaries to the USS IOWA; the Navy will take them on board. Ms Wong also informed the Commission that Supervisors Peskin and Mikorimi are willing to meet with the IOWA principles now. IOWA supporters would like to see more minority supporters. The revised resolution is attached with these minutes. The meeting with Supervisor Peskin to discuss finances regarding the berthing of the IOWA is scheduled for Wednesday, November 09 at 4:00 PM; Ms Wong, Mr. Stephens, Commissioners Wilson and Levin will be attending. They will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Staff Sgt Shannon Alvarez of the Nat'l Guard 2632nd Transport Co was present to invite the Commissioners to an Awards Ceremony on Saturday, December 03, 2005 in room 207 in the Veterans War Memorial Building. She informed us that the entire unit of 169 went to Iraq; there are currently 65 still active in the unit.

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ELLIPT

ELLIPT is a Fortran program for the numerical solution of elliptic boundary value problems. It uses finite differences to discretize the differential equation and a multigrid method to solve the resulting system of linear equations. The program can handle problems with Dirichlet or Neumann boundary conditions and can accommodate various types of boundary values. It also includes features for adaptive mesh refinement and for solving systems with multiple right-hand sides.

The program is designed to be used with a variety of input formats, including text files and graphical interfaces. It can be run on a wide range of computer systems, from personal computers to supercomputers. The code is well-documented and includes extensive comments and examples.

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COMMITTEE and GENERAL REPORTS:

- ❖ By-Laws – No Report
- ❖ Goals/Plans/Funding – Commissioner Gibbs would like to see the City pay more attention to homeless veterans – Commissioner Buck stated it was because of Commissioner Gibbs desire to see the City take more of a pro-active role regarding homeless veterans is her reason for wanting to become a Veterans Affairs Commissioner – Commissioner Wilson stated he wanted to see more recognition for veterans, more promotion for veterans issues. Commissioner Buck would like to see this Commission become “point” in developing a program that would identify veterans in City positions, administration, etc that would join the Commission in getting the needs issue out to the community and assist in informing the community of the homeless veterans needs; for example; socks, clothing...something tangible. The community needs to know how they can assist, where to buy the items, whom to call...Etc... The community needs to *feel* they can make a difference.

City Attorney, Wayne Snodgrass reminded us of our task as Commissioners; *to advise and inform the Mayor and Board of Supervisors* of veterans; issues by way of a letter informing them of this Commission’s advisements.

Commissioner Buck and Gibbs will put together a draft letter of advisement for our next meeting.

- ❖ Commission Appointments and Vacancies – No Report (2 vacancies)
- ❖ County Veterans Service Office – Commissioner Cook, Program Supervisor of the County Veterans Service Office and Assistant County Veterans Service Officer reported her staff has been working with recent Iraq returnees with filing VA claims for their service-connected monetary awards and benefits The CVSO is averaging from 2 to 3 new IRAQ claims per month. She reported that those filing claims were an equal mix of Guardsman, Reservists and regular military. She reported that the staff continues to be a part of the “veterans services” area at the Project Homeless Connect efforts. The “Veterans Services” team is made up of the CVSO, VA Member Services staff, social workers from the VA 13th St Clinic and representatives from Swords To Plowshares and No Report.
- ❖ Dept of Veterans Affairs: Commissioner Gibbs reported that the VA 13th Street Clinic will be moving to 3rd & Harrison Streets after the first of the year, he will keep us informed.
- ❖ Health & Welfare – The San Bruno VA Clinic held it's ribbon cutting grand opening on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, it was well represented by this Commission and other dignitaries. DVA Sec Nichols was the keynote speaker. Calif Dept of Veterans Affairs Sec Tom Johnson was also present.
- ❖ Legislation Report – No Report
- ❖ National Veterans Service Organizations: See Attachments
- ❖ Veterans' Day Parade Report – Commissioner Wong reported that the parade would be Sunday, November 06. There are over 140 units marching in the parade..

the same time, the number of species per sample was higher in the forest than in the open areas. This may be due to the fact that the forest floor is more humid than the open areas, and therefore more favourable for the development of the microflora. The number of species per sample was also higher in the forest than in the open areas, which may be due to the fact that the forest floor is more favourable for the development of the microflora. The number of species per sample was also higher in the forest than in the open areas, which may be due to the fact that the forest floor is more favourable for the development of the microflora.

The results of the present study indicate that the number of species per sample was higher in the forest than in the open areas. This may be due to the fact that the forest floor is more favourable for the development of the microflora. The number of species per sample was also higher in the forest than in the open areas, which may be due to the fact that the forest floor is more favourable for the development of the microflora.

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San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

New Business:

Commissioners Buck and Gibbs will present a draft advisement letter at our next meeting – Monday, December 05, 2005.

Announcements:

Commissioner Reed informed the Commission that there will be a Civil War Living History Exhibit at the Irish Cultural Center (parking lot) on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 from 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs, everyone is invited.

Meeting was adjourned @ 8:05 PM in memory of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan..

Next Commission meeting will be Monday, December 05, 2005 @ 6:00 PM, Room 104 War Memorial Veterans' Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Acting Commission Secretary

the first time in 1997, and the number of new cases has increased every year since then.

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SOUND-PRODUCING ELECTRONIC DEVICES PROHIBITED

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.



San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

December 05, 2005

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

AGENDA

NOV 29 2005

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER
- ❖ THE PLEDGE
- ❖ APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- ❖ APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2005
- ❖ PUBLIC COMMENT

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11-29-05P03-57 RUVF

- ❖ COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - 1. COMMISSION BY-LAWS: Commissioner Champagne – The Commission By-Laws are in need of updating and revision. The Chair has been inactive due to health concerns. Commissioner Zweir has been deployed to the Gulf Coast.
 - 2. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS:
 - 3. COMMISSION SEAT VACANCIES: Commissioners et al – Update on current vacancies and the need to function as a full Commission
 - 4. CVSOS Report: Commissioner Cook
 - 5. Dept of Veterans Affairs HCHV Report: Commissioner Gibbs – Updates and issues of concern from the VA Healthcare System.
 - 6. Health & Welfare (Homeless & Disabled Veterans) Report: Commissioner
 - 7. Legislative Report:
 - 8. National Veterans' Service Organizations Reports: Commissioner Wong – updates on continuing efforts regarding veterans

New Business:

- Elections of Officers
 - ❖ Draft Letter of Advisement to the Mayor and BOS

Announcements & Information Sharing

Next meeting January 02, 2006, Room 104 @ 6:00 PM – Veterans' War Memorial Building



San Francisco Veterans' Affairs Commission

December 05, 2005

MINUTES

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

JAN - 9 2006

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- ❖ Commission meeting was called order at 6:13 PM with a quorum
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance was led by all
- ❖ Roll Call of Officers – All present
- ❖ Commission Agenda was approved
- ❖ Minutes were approved from November 07, 2005 meeting by unanimous vote

Commissioners Present: Cheryl D. Cook, Raymond Wong, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson, Charles "Corky" Reed, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, George Gibbs, and Renie Champagne.

Commissioners Absent: Brian Zweir, Veronika Cauley, Jill Buck, and Ralph Gibson Sr.

Deputy City Attorney, Wayne Snodgrass was excused.

There are 2 vacancies: 1 Mayoral Appointment & 1 Board of Supervisors Appointment

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marilyn Wong of the HSMPS reported on Senator Feinstein's SB 1042 to reclassify the Iowa and the Wisconsin from reserve status to donation status. The "draft" Board of Supervisor's resolution to make San Francisco the homeport for the USS Iowa is still is "worked on" by Commissioner Wilson for introduction. Commissioner Wilson and Ms Wong will give updates at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE and GENERAL REPORTS:

- ❖ By-Laws – Commissioner Champagne will meet with the By-Laws Committee; Commissioner Reed and Commissioner Wilson to review the current By-Laws. Commissioner Champagne suggested that all Commissioners go over them and make recommendations to the committee. The committee will give an update report at the next meeting.
- ❖ Goals/Plans/Funding – No Report.
- ❖ Commission Appointments and Vacancies – No Report (2 vacancies)

- ❖ County Veterans Service Office – Commissioner Cook, Program Supervisor of the County Veterans Service Office and Assistant County Veterans Service Officer informed the Commission that the next Project Homeless Connect would be Thursday, December 08 at the Bill Graham Civic Center Auditorium and that she'd like to see Commissioners attend and or volunteer.
- ❖ Dept of Veterans Affairs: Commissioner Gibbs reported that the VA 13th Street Clinic will be moving to 401 Third St. @ Harrison Streets after the first of the year, the new Downtown VA Clinic is scheduled to open for business on January 06, 2005.
- ❖ Health & Welfare – No
- ❖ Legislation Report – See Attached letter to Chairman Buyer of the House Veterans Affairs Committee submitted by Robert E. Wallace, Executive Director of the VFW – Report given by Commissioner Wong.
- ❖ National Veterans Service Organizations: Same as above
- ❖ Veterans' Day Parade: Commissioner Champagne reported that 148 units participated, the parade received \$13,500 from the Grants of the Arts and all funds were used, all bills have been paid.

New Business:

Election of Officers:

President: Commissioner Elbert Bud Wilson

Vice-President: Commissioner Wallace Wally Levin

Secretary: No one elected – President & Vice-President will report back at next Commission meeting.

Announcements:

Commissioner Cook asked that any Commissioner needing business cards inform her and indicate any changes that need to be made. She also stated that the CVSO would continue to supply the Commission with letterhead, envelopes and mailing if needed.

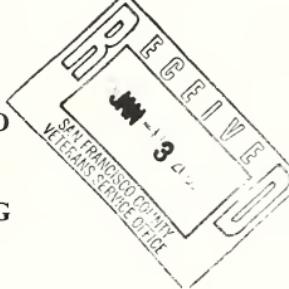
Meeting was adjourned @ 8:00 PM in memory of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Next Commission meeting will be Monday, January 09, 2005 @ 6:00 PM, Room 104 War Memorial Veterans' Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Acting Commission Secretary

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, JAN. 9, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 982-3417



AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

JAN - 9 2006

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- 7. REPORTS**
 - A. PRESIDENT**
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT**
 - C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**
 - D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE**
 - E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**
 - F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 - G. HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**
 - H. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**
 - I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**
 - J. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS-Resolution**
against House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer, R-Ind., plans to terminate the long tradition of hearings by veterans service organizations before joint sessions of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees.
- 8. OLD BUSINESS**
- 9. NEW BUSINESS**
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF AMERICANS KILLED IN
IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN**

FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, FEB. 6, 2006

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE 127
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 982-3417**

RESOLUTION JAN. 9, 2006

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco's Veterans Affairs Commission is opposed House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer, R-Ind., plans to terminate the long tradition of hearings by veterans service organizations before joint sessions of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees; and

WHEREAS, history has shown that after wars are over, promises to those that served are not always kept; and

WHEREAS, the voices of the Nationally Chartered veterans organizations must not be silenced; and

WHEREAS, it is their mission to speak out in behalf of veterans and to fight for their rights and benefits; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Veterans Affairs Commission urge the Board of Supervisors to support our efforts against this erosion of veterans right of free speech and that you convey this to our nationally elected representatives.

DOUGLAS K. VOLLMER, Associate Executive Director,
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, regarding Buyer's
decision,"It is patently evident that the intent of this charade is to
eliminate criticism and to marginalize veterans' voices."

ROBERT E. WALLACE, Executive Director, **VETERANS OF
FOREIGN WARS**, regarding Buyer's decision, "This tradition and
access has been purchased with the blood, sweat and sacrifice of
America's veterans, servicemen and women, and their families."

THOMAS L. BOCK, National Commander, **AMERICAN LEGION**,
regarding Buyer's decision, "Veterans Administration will never benefit
from Congress silencing the voice of its constituency."

PAUL W. JACKSON, National Commander, **DISABLED AMERICAN
VETERANS**, regarding Buyer's decision, "The timing of this
announcement just before Veterans Day could not have been worse."

The above was reported in the January 2006 issue of The American Legion.

November 15, 2005

Representative Steve Buyer
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Buyer:

This is written to say that I am both shocked and disappointed that you would choose to use the occasion of the brief trip to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to announce your unilateral decision to summarily dispense with our Commander-in-Chief's testimony before a Joint Hearing of the House-Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. In this you would attempt to undermine 50 years of tradition and hard won access that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and other veterans service organizations have established with members of Congress. This tradition and access, I might add, has been purchased with the blood, sweat and sacrifice of America's veterans, servicemen and women, and their families.

I am shocked because, just as at the onset of so many of the hostilities directed against this nation and those veterans who have stood in her defense, your decision was apparently intended to be an oblique offensive act, delivered at a time and place when our defenses would be down, and we were not expecting the blow. It was a blow that you chose not to strike within this Capitol of Democracy; we think, for obvious reasons. I am disappointed because you, instead of serving first and foremost as a key veterans' advocate, have used your position as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to the detriment of veterans. That you would seek to deny the VFW and other VSOs this hallmark occasion to present our views on the needs of America's veterans is a hollow gesture. The VFW will find an opportunity and an audience.

Already, the failed logic and the transparency of your gesture are apparent to the veterans' community and to the American public. Your assault is giving focus to what often ails the federal government in meeting its obligation to those who fought and those who still fight this country's battles.

I understand that you are troubled that the VFW was not represented at Carlisle. You should know that I did not receive the e-mail invitation you indicate was sent to me, and that we only became aware at the last moment that such a meeting was to occur from a colleague. By this time, previous commitments precluded our participation and your office was apprised of this fact. I would only add that given the absence of a response from the VFW prior to the meeting, the apparent lack of any attempt to follow up on your part with this office is, at the very least, puzzling.

The VFW and the other VSOs will be heard because the American people want and deserve to hear our voice. When we do speak about the affairs of the United States and our veterans, it is certain that our nation's lawmakers and people will now heed our words more attentively than ever before.

Chairman Buyer, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will have its congressional hearing. When we establish the time and place where our Commander-in-Chief will articulate the goals and priorities of the men and women of the VFW, you will be welcome to participate. That is the American way. I invite you, rather than standing as an antagonist, to be an active participant as we work to resolve the issues facing America's veterans.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. WALLACE
Executive Director

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Sincerely,

ROBERT E. WALLACE
Executive Director

Chairman Buyer Proposal Insulting to Veterans

Washington, Nov. 10, 2005 - The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. strongly objects to the gross mischaracterization contained in a Tuesday press release from the chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep. Steve Buyer (R-IN). In his release, Buyer states that his announcement to discontinue the opportunity for veterans' service organizations to make legislative recommendations at joint House-Senate hearings was "received favorably" by the veterans' organizations.

The chairman's announcement -- which the VFW views as an absolute abhorrent idea -- occurred during a meeting at the Army War College with some veterans' organizations, a meeting at which the VFW did not participate.

Joint hearings were initiated decades ago to allow America's veterans' organizations an opportunity to be heard by the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. The hearings are an opportunity for senior VFW leaders -- and those from other organizations -- to outline key objectives and concerns regarding our nation's commitment to care for veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

The joint hearings also afford members of Congress an important opportunity to convey their views on veterans and a host of other issues. The joint hearings represent a quintessentially democratic forum, a give and take of convictions and beliefs between the citizens of this great nation and their lawmakers.

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SOUND-PRODUCING ELECTRONIC DEVICES PROHIBITED

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
875 STEVENSON STREET, SUITE 250
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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JAN 30 2006

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MINUTES OF THE JAN. 9, 2006 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m., in room 104.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Minutes of the Dec. 5, 2005 meeting was approved.

Commissioners present: Jill Buck, Cheryl Cook, George Gibbs, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, Charles Reed, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson and Raymond Wong. Commissioners Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, Ralph Gibson and Brian Zweir were not present.

Guests present were Merylin Wong, Bill Stephens & Stephen Harper, from the USS IOWA Committee, Ulyssies Moore, Buffalo Soldiers, Juan De Anda & Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ulyssies Moore, local leader of the African American Buffalo Soldiers, reported that he is leading a project to raise 8 million to build a Buffalo Soldier museum at the Presidio. He invited all to attend their event at the Veterans Building on Feb. 3rd.

Juan De Anda reported on his legal action against the San Francisco County Community Mental Health Services.

Marilyn Wong & Bill Stevens, Directors of the USS IOWA Committee, presented a complete report on the present status. They reported that the Navy would put the USS IOWA up for donation in 2006. They are consulting with the Port & they are now evaluating Pier 48. They are continuing to meet with members of the Board of Supervisors & they hope to have another vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Wilson thanked Past President Michael Thompson for his two years of dedicated service as President. He also thank Cheryl Cook for her great work as Acting Secretary. The Annual Report is due.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Vice President Levin reported that he felt some of our goals in 2006 should be to organize our committees, clarify and define our mission, inform the Board & the Mayor as to who is on the commission and what we accomplish on a daily basis in support to veterans.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

Comm. George Gibbs and Comm. Jill Buck presented a Homeless Veterans report. The outstanding report reviewed resources, funding, resources & recommendations. All are urged to add data to this report.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Comm. Cook reported that she had attended events for returning troops, to inform them of the services available to them. She will attend a County Veterans Service Officers Conference, which will be held in Sacramento, Jan. 23 to 26.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

We still have two openings. One from the Mayor and one from the Board of Supervisors.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Comm. Gibbs reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs Downtown Homeless Veterans Office has moved to at 401 3rd St.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Comm. Wong alerted the commission prior about House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer, plans to terminate the long tradition of hearings by veteran's service organizations before joint sessions of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees. Comm. Levin made a motion that the commission pass a resolution against Buyer's action. Motion passed and will be sent to the Board & Mayor.

MEMORIAL DAY

Comm. Levin reported that he has been in consultation with the Army's 91st Division, who will be leaving the Bay Area in 2 years. They will support our event this year.

COMMISSION BY-LAWS & WEB SITE COMMITTEES

Discussion on the Commission By-Laws & Web Site Committees was held, with future action planned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Legion Department of California will have their annual Four Chaplains Day Inter-Faith Service, Feb. 11th, 2:00 p.m., at St. Mary's Cathedral. Comm. Reed reported that there would be a Civil War Living History Event will held at Fort Point, on Jan. 21st.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in memory of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan (2,400+), Lou Rawls & Vietnam Army veteran Albert Lewis Owens, one of the individuals that Stanley Tookie Williams was convicted of killing.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, Acting Commission Secretary.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, FEB. 6, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 982-3417

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JAN 30 2006

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AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT
 - C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE
 - D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE
 - E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
 - F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 - G. HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE-Review of Juan De Anda's legal action against the San Francisco County Community Mental Health Services.
 - H. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
 - I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
 - J. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF AMERICANS KILLED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

MARCH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAR. 6, 2006

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
875 STEVENSON STREET, SUITE 250
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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FEB 27 2006

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MINUTES OF THE FEB. 6, 2006 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m., in room 104.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Minutes of the Jan. 9, 2006 meeting was approved.

Commissioners present: Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, Charles Reed, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson Raymond Wong and Brian Zweir.

Commissioners Cheryl Cook and Ralph Gibson were not present.

Guests present were Merylin Wong & Bill Stephens, USS IOWA Committee, Edwin Wilkerson & Dep. City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Wong & Bill Stevens, Directors of the USS IOWA Committee, presented a complete report on the present status. Marilyn reported that they are consulting with the Port & hope to have a hearing soon. They are continuing to contact members of the Board of Supervisors & they need our help & support.

Comm. Levin, Wong & Champagne presented a Clock-plaque to Comm. Thompson in honor of him being the Grand Marshall of the 2005 Veterans Day Parade & because of his outstanding military duty.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Wilson suggested that we develop a commission E-Mail list, so that members of the commission could be contacted fast. He also is meeting with the SFCC Web-site Director. He also reviewed his plans for our new web site. Comm. Wilson & Levin attended the Blue Star Moms press conference in front of the Veterans Building, to help gather items for our troops. KXTV gave the commission a plug.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Vice President Levin reported that Edwin Wilkerson will go before the Rules Committee on Feb. 8 & he deserves our support. He earned the Silver Star & Legion of Merit in Vietnam. Edwin is a past president of the commission and is an outstanding veteran. Comm. Cauley was

congratulated for earning her BA Degree from New College. Comm. Zweir was activated by the Coast Guard Reserve for 180 day & he was sent to Louisiana to help with disaster relief. He reported on the tragic event & how much great work was done in helping the area.

COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Comm. Reed, Wilson, Zweir, & Champagne met prior to the meeting & they reviewed the Commission By-Laws. Comm. Reed reported that they appear to be in good shape, with just a few changes needed.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

Comm. Gibbs and Buck reviewed their Homeless Veterans report. They feel this report should be moved onto the Board & the Mayor. All are urged to add data to this report prior to submission.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Comm. Gibbs reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs Downtown Homeless Veterans Office is operating at 401 3rd St.

HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Juan De Nada's legal action against the SAC Mental Health Services was reviewed & evaluated.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Comm. Wong reported that in April the VFW will have a Legislative Day in Sacramento & all veterans are welcome. The VFW has started efforts to consolidate the Bay Area Districts, which the Commission has gone on record as being against. VFW Voice of Democracy Contest at Mercy High School will be held on Feb. 10th.

MEMORIAL DAY

Comm. Levin reported that the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, the Bay Area Historical Representation Society will be on hand & Charles Reed will present the Gettysburg Address.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Legion Department of California will have their annual Four Chaplains Day Inter-Faith Service, Feb. 11th, 2:00 p.m., at St. Mary's Cathedral.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in memory of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan (2,500+)

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, Acting Commission Secretary.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, MAR. 6, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 982-3417

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AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS-USS IOWA
7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT
 - C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE
 - D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE
 - E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
 - F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 - G. HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE-
 - H. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
 - I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
 - J. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
8. OLD BUSINESS-Review By-Law changes as to membership.
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF AMERICANS KILLED IN
IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, APR. 3, 2006

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Cheryl D. Cook at the County Veterans Service Office at (415) 554-7100 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. *FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE.*

Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, FAX: (415) 554-7854
E-mail: Donna.Hall@sfgov.org

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
875 STEVENSON STREET, SUITE 250
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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MINUTES OF THE MAR. 6, 2006 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m., in room 104.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Minutes of the Feb 6, 2006 meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Veronika Cauley, Cheryl Cook, Ralph Gibson, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Charles Reed & Brian Zweir were absent. Guests present were Merylin Wong & Bill Stephens, USS IOWA Committee, & Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Merylin Wong & Bill Stevens, Directors of the USS IOWA Committee, presented a complete report on the present status. Marilyn reported on their appearance on the Fox Hannity & Colmes TV show. Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval was the only member of the Board to agree to be on the show. The Navy has not yet placed the IOWA into donation status. The Port Commission will hold a hearing on the IOWA on March 28th & all commission members are urged to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Wilson reported that he is working with the City Web-site Director. He reviewed his plans for our new web site & he passed out a commission web-site plan. Comm. Cook made a motion to move the plan forward, seconded by Comm. Cauley. Motion passed. A Medal of Honor Ceremony will be held at Cypress Lawn Cemetery. Comm. Cook & Gomez reported that they would attend this event.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Vice President Levin attended the Board Rules Committee meeting on Feb. 9th & that Edwin Wilkerson's membership was moved on to the full Board for approval. He was praised and welcomed back to the Commission. The Hannity & Colmbs TV show on the USS IOWA was

most informative & was pro USS IOWA. Most of the national coverage was very negative to the patriotic image of San Francisco.

COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Comm. Wilson reported that the Commission By-Laws are in fair shape, but need some changes and need to be brought up to date. The By-Laws should reflect the will of the commission & reflect the Administrative Code. Comm. Levin reviewed the changes made during the past two decades to the Administrative Code. Comm. Cook reported that the By-Laws should be brought up to date and that non-veterans that are veteran's advocates should also should be on the commission. The subject will be evaluated and no action will be taken until the subject is completely reviewed and evaluated by the entire commission.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Comm. Cook reported that as CVSO State Education Chair she is working on a training program for new CVSO staff & she will fly soon to Ohio to attend a class on this program. Her office is working on Project Homeless Connect.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Comm. Cook reported that AB 1931 legislation is an out-reach bill, that would give County Veterans Service Offices the ability to do more out-reach to veterans.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Comm. Wong reported that on April 25th the VFW will hold their Legislative Day in Sacramento. They plan on honoring Assemblyman Leland Yee, for his dedicated service to veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY

Comm. Levin reported that the Mayor's Memorial Day Citizen's Committee will meet at the Presidio Trust Public Affairs Building at the Presidio, on April 5th, at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Wilson reported that the e-mail list would be given to all members. Comm. Levin reported that there is a photo exhibit at Presidio Officers Club, featuring the military in the South Pacific during World War II.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in memory of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan (2,500+), Pat Tillman, who was killed in Afghanistan. & Writer Guy Wright, Army World War II veteran.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, APR. 3, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 982-3417

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

MAR 27 2006

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MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS-USS IOWA

7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT
 - C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE
 - D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE
- Approval of Comm. Buck & Gibbs Homeless Plan
 - E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
 - F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 - G. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE-
 - H. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
 - I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
 - J. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
8. OLD BUSINESS-Review Board Commission's Administrative Code
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF AMERICANS KILLED IN
IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

(If you cannot attend the April 3, 2006 meeting please call 982-3417.)

MAY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY. 1, 2006

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Cheryl D. Cook at the County Veterans Service Office at (415) 554-7100 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

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Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, FAX: (415) 554-7854
E-mail: Donna.Hall@sfgov.org

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To inspect documents referred to on agenda, please contact: Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Department of Aging and Adult Services/County Veterans Service Office, 875 Stevenson Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, Office: (415) 554-7100, Fax: (415) 554-7101, E-mail: sfcvso@sfgov.org

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**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
875 STEVENSON STREET, SUITE 250
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103**

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2006 MEETING

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

APR 24 2006

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Minutes of the March 6, 2006 meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley, Ralph Gibson, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Renie Champagne, Cheryl Cook, George Gibbs, Charles Reed & Brian Zweir were absent.

Guests present were Merylin Wong & Jim Mallony, USS IOWA Committee, & Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Merylin Wong, Director of the USS IOWA Committee, presented a complete report on the present status. Marilyn reported that the Port Commission gave them 90 days to present a new proposal. She thanked Comm. Wilson, Cauley & Levin for attending the March Port meeting. The Navy has now placed the USS IOWA into donation status. All California cities will have until May 10th to get their request in, followed by six months to get their completed documents to the Navy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Wilson reported that he is working with the City Web-site Director. He reviewed his plans for our new web site.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Vice President Levin reported that because of the political posture of some of our political leaders, much of the USS IOWA national media coverage has been negative to the patriotic image of San Francisco.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

Comm. Buck reported that they wanted to move their Homeless Veterans report onto the Mayor & Board of Supervisors. Comm. Buck was recently on the Jack Hanson Comcast TV Show.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Comm. Wong and National VFW Commander Jim Mueller went to the Palo Alto VA Brain Trauma Unit, to visit wounded Iraq War Veterans. They were in high spirits and wanted to go back to active duty. It was a very moving and rewarding personal experience.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Comm. Wilkerson and Thompson reported that the Veterans Employment Committee will hold the 16TH annual Job Fair on May 17th. The Committee is made up of members of veteran's organizations. They help veterans with job information and also help veterans with funds to get employment.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Comm. Levin reported that the School Board has passed legislation that will allow employment recruiters onto San Francisco High Schools only two times a year.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Comm. Wong reported that the VFW supported the adoption of the Star Spangled Banner as our National Anthem on March 31, 1931.

MEMORIAL DAY

Comm. Levin reported that the Mayor's Memorial Day Citizen's Committee will meet at the Presidio Trust's Public Affairs Building, 201 Halleck, on April 5th, at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

The subject of the Administrative Code membership requirements of the Commission was discussed. Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass will present a draft statement that reflects the views of the commission membership for evaluation at the next meeting.

Comm. Gomez reported that he attended the Colma Medal of Honor Ceremony. The event was a moving event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Wilkerson reported that former commissioner Jim Lineberger is in poor health & he is now staying at Mills Long Term Care Facility.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in memory of the 2,500+ members of the Armed Forces of the United States killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, MAY 1, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER	DOCUMENTS DEPT.
2. ROLL CALL	APR 24 2006
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	SAN FRANCISCO
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	PUBLIC LIBRARY
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING	
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS-USS IOWA	
7. REPORTS	
A. PRESIDENT	
B. VICE PRESIDENT	
C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE	
D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE	
Approval of Comm. Buck & Gibbs Homeless Plan	
E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE	
F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	
G. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE-	
H. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE	
I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY	
J. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS	
8. OLD BUSINESS-Review Board Commission's Administrative Code	
9. NEW BUSINESS	
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
11. ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF AMERICANS KILLED IN	
IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN	

(If you cannot attend the May 1, 2006 meeting please call 982-3417).

JUNE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2006

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

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LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
875 STEVENSON STREET, SUITE 250
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

AUG - 3 2006

SAN FRANCISCO
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MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2006 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Vice President Levin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Minutes of the April 3, 2006 meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, Cheryl Cook, Ralph Gibson, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, Charles Reed, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson & Raymond Wong.
Commissioners Jill Buck, George Gibbs, Bud Wilson, & Brian Zweir were not present Dep. City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass was also present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

USS IOWA

Comm. Cauley, Levin, Thompson & Wong reported on the latest USS IOWA news. Now that San Francisco has turned it's back on the ship, the IOWA Committee are now working with Vallejo. The Commission has supported the porting of the USS IOWA in San Francisco for over a decade and it would have been a great asset to our tourist industry.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Vice President Levin reported that President Wilson was out of town. & he has the Web-site ready to go. Plans for Memorial Day are on track.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

The committee wants to move their Homeless Veterans report onto the Mayor & Board of Supervisors.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Comm. Cook reported that their office at Fort Miley is very busy and that they are helping many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Many are sent back to Iraq, even when they have disabilities. She will attend a veteran's information conference in Reno next month.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Comm. Wilkerson and Thompson reported that the Veterans Employment Committee will hold the 16TH annual Job Fair on May 17th. The event will be held at Fort Mason. 31 employers will be on hand.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Comm. Cook reported that she had developed a list of legislation and she will make it available for our next meeting.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Comm. Wong reported that the VFW held their annual Loyalty Day Program at the Vets Building. Comm. Champagne was the Chairman of the event and he put a lot of effort into it. Comm. Levin also attended. This is another great program that needs more support from veterans. A group called Veterans Affairs Services are contacting veterans and they are requesting personal information. They are not an official veterans organization and you should not give them any information.

MEMORIAL DAY

Comm. Levin reported that the Mayor's Memorial Day Citizen's Committee will meet at the Presidio Trust's Public Affairs Building, 201 Halleck, on May 3rd, at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend. The Commission is the lead organization putting the event together.

OLD BUSINESS

Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass's draft statement reflecting the views of the commission membership, pertaining to the Commission Administrative Code membership requirements was reviewed. When everyone is satisfied with the legislation, we will then have a vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Levin reported that the S.F. High School JROTC is under attack and this outstanding program needs our support.

Comm. Wong reported that the S.F. Giants will honor active duty members of the Armed Forces and veterans. They will do this at their game on May 26th. Only active duty personal will be admitted free.

Comm. Cauley reported that individuals are claiming to have received medals and awards that they did not actually receive.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in memory of the 2,700+ members of the Armed Forces of the United States killed in Iraq/Afghanistan and World War II and Korean War veteran Col. William Strobridge.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417. June minutes to follow.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT

MAY 30 2006

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1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS-USS IOWA

7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT
 - C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE
 - D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE
 - E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
 - F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 - G. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
 - H. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
 - I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
 - J. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

8. OLD BUSINESS-Review Board Commission's Administrative Code as to membership in the Veterans Affairs Commission.
9. NEW BUSINESS-Resolution in support of the San Francisco High School JROTC Program.
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF AMERICANS KILLED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

(If you cannot attend the June 5, 2006 meeting please call 982-3417).

Meeting Information

Archive Center >> Veterans Affairs Commission >> 2006

back to Veterans Affairs Commission home page

2009 2008 2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 2001 2000 1999

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
875 STEVENSON STREET, SUITE 250
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103**

GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS DEPT

JAN 15 2016

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MINUTES OF THE JUNE 5, 2006 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Minutes of the May 1, 2006 meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson, & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, Cheryl Cook, Ralph Gibson, Charles Reed, Edwin Wilkerson & Brian Zweir were not present.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Wilson reported on the latest USS IOWA news. Merilyn Wong gave him the news that there is a green light for the ship to go on display in Vallejo. That community appears to be in full support of the ship. She is now fund raising with much success. San Francisco's loss will be Vallejo's gain. This commission has supported the USS IOWA project for over ten years & was one of the first groups in support of bringing the USS IOWA to San Francisco.

He also reported that the Commission Web site is now finally up and running & we will add to it each month. He will forward all information to the City for placement on our Web site.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Vice President Levin reported that the Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony was successful, but there are some areas where improvement is needed. That no matter what we do it will never match the sacrifice of those we honor on that day and we have an obligation to try to make it more rewarding each year.

The S.F. High School JROTC Program is under attack from the SchoolBoard. Because of the great community support for the JROTC, they have put off a vote until the fall. Because of the importance of this outstanding educational program to 2,000 students, the Commission passed a resolution giving our full support to the JROTC & urging the School Board to continue the program. Motion by Comm. Champagne. Second by Comm. Gomez, Thompson & Wong. Motion passed.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

Comm. Gibbs reported that they would try to get our Homeless Veterans Plan finished so that we can move the report to the Mayor & the Board.

He is one of the coordinators of the East Bay Stand Down, which will be held on Aug. 10 to 18. This is a premier Stand Down. Homeless veterans are given transportation to the event, new clothing, free food, dental, legal & social services. Over 400 veterans are brought to the event, at the Alameda Fair Grounds. 200 of the veterans will be from San Francisco. Money for the Stand Down is all donated & San Francisco gives not one penny. Comm. Gibbs has been working for over a year on this event.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Comm. Thompson reported that the Veterans Employment Committee held the 16th annual Job Fair on May 17th. The event was held at Fort Mason. 31 employers were on hand. The event was successful.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Comm. Wong reported that the Commission should concentrate on State Legislation that impacts our new veterans and laws that will affect the largest number of veterans.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Comm. Wong reported that the S.F. Giants honored the Military and Veterans at their game on May 26th. Active duty military were given tickets for the game. The Oakland A's are also planning a salute to Veterans. VFW Post 90 raised over \$1,000 from the sale of Buddy Poppies, which they donated to Fort Miley VA Hospital.

MEMORIAL DAY

Comm. Levin reported that the Memorial Day Ceremony was a success mainly because of the great support from the Presidio Trust, Army's 91st Division, National Cemetery Administration, Navy's Guided Missile Destroyer USS Pinckney, Pleasanton Community Concert Band, Lowell High JROTC & the National Guard.

OLD BUSINESS

Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass's draft statement reflecting the views of the commission membership, pertaining to the Commission Administrative Code membership requirements was reviewed. We will vote on this proposed legislation at our August meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Comm. Cauley reported that Comm. Cook requested that she inform the commission about a project to honor those local veterans that pass away. She has been sending condolence cards to local veterans families. She will chair the committee, with help from Comm. Gomez. We will focus on San Francisco veterans.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in memory of the 2,700+ members of the Armed Forces of the United States killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. World War II Marine veteran & former Fire Chief, Andrew Casper. World War II Army veteran & former Supervisor Peter Tamaras. Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, AUG. 7, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

THE COMMISSION WILL TAKE OUR TRADITIONAL SUMMER
VACATION AND THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY
THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON AUG. 7, 2006

MEETING AGENDA

MEETING AGENDA	DOCUMENTS DEPT.
1. CALL TO ORDER	DOCUMENTS DEPT.
2. ROLL CALL	JUN 30 2006
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING	
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS-USS IOWA	
7. REPORTS	
A. PRESIDENT	
B. VICE PRESIDENT	
C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE	
D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE	
Approval of Comm. Buck & Gibbs Homeless Plan.	
E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE	
F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	
G. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE	
H. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE	
I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY	
J. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS	
8. OLD BUSINESS-Vote on Board of Supervisors Commission's Administrative Code recommendation, as to membership in the Veterans Affairs Commission.	
San Francisco High School JROTC support report.	
9. NEW BUSINESS	
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
11. ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF AMERICANS KILLED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN & HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT. (IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE AUG. 7 TH MEETING CALL 982-3417)	

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
875 STEVENSON STREET, SUITE 250
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2006 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

SEP - 5 2006

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Minutes of the June 5, 2006 meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley, Cheryl Cook, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Ralph Gibson, Fred Gomez, Wallace Levin, Charles Reed, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, & Bud Wilson. Commissioners Raymond Wong & Brian Zweir were not present. Wayne Snodgrass (Deputy City Attorney), David Epstein (Reserve Officers Association), Kenneth Breiten (91st Division), Bill Stevens, Marilyn Wong & Gordon Renolds (USS Iowa Committee), were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marilyn Wong & Bill Stevens presented the latest information on the USS Iowa. She felt that the Port Commission gave them impossible requirements to birth the Iowa in San Francisco. The Vallejo City Council voted 7 to 0 to support bringing the USS Iowa to Mare Island in Vallejo. She requested a letter of support from the commission. She reported that the Stockton effort does not look good at this time. Bill thanked the commission for a decade of support. They are continuing their efforts to port the USS Iowa in the Bay Area.

David Epstein, Reserve Officers Association Convention Chairman, for the ROA's planned San Francisco Convention. The event will be held in June 2007.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Wilson reported that the Commission Web site is up and running & we will add to it each month. He will forward all information to the City for placement on our Web site. The site looks good & is getting better every month. The Mayor is planning a memorial for Army Specialist 4 Chris Rose, the first San Franciscan killed in Iraq. The event will be held on Veterans Day. He will give the commission more information when he receives it from the Mayor's Office.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Vice President Levin reported that Comm. Buck & Zweir slots on the commission will come before the Board Rules Committee in Sept. LTC Kenneth Breiten is one of three new candidates who want to serve on the commission. They will receive notice of the meeting from the Board. He commended Marilyn Wong & Bill Stevens for their dedicated effort to bring the USS Iowa to the Bay Area. He reported that the commission membership changes, prepared by Wayne Snodgrass are ready to be voted on. Comm. Champagne made the motion, second by Comm. Reed & Wilkerson. Motion passed to forward the document to the Board.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

Comm. Gibbs in his position with the Veterans Administration reported that he met with the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Steve Kawa, pertaining to the needs of Homeless Veterans. He is working with his VA Director Bobby Rosenthal. They are working up a plan to present to the Commission and the Office of the Mayor.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Comm. Cook reported that she is serving as State Education Chair for the County Veterans Service Officers Association. The office is moving into a larger office, in the same building. She will be part of the East Bay Stand Down. They just had a state audit & they were one of the few that passed with flying colors.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Comm Gibbs is one of the coordinators of the East Bay Stand Down, which will be held on Aug. 10 to 18. This is a premier Stand Down. Homeless veterans are given new clothing, free food, dental, legal & social services. Over 500 veterans will be brought to the event, at the Alameda Fair Grounds. All funds for the event are donated.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

Comm. Champagne reported that they are attempting to have the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 11th. The City has always forced us to have the Parade on the Sunday prior to Veterans Day.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Comm. Cook conveyed her feelings pertaining to the commission's lack of aggressive action in regards to legislation. She prepared a list of present legislation, which was presented at the last meeting. She was not present because she was attending a County Veterans Service Conference. She felt some action should have been taken on her presented report. She felt that if we are not going to recommend legislation to the Board & the Mayor, then we should not have a Legislation Committee. Comm. Levin conveyed that members of the commission must step forward to serve on this committee, if the committee is to function properly. Comm. Cook agreed to serve.

OLD BUSINESS

Comm. Cook conveyed the need to send notes of condolence to the families of veterans who pass away. The Memorial Committee was formed in June, with Comm. Cauley & Comm. Gomez on the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in memory of the 2,700+ members of the Armed Forces of the United States killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. World War II veteran & former SF Seal Con Dempsey. Iraq veteran Army Specialist 4 Christopher Rose.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEP. 11, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102**

BECAUSE OF LABOR DAY THE NEXT MEETING IS ON SEP. 11

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER	DOCUMENTS DEPT.
2. ROLL CALL	AUG 31 2006
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING	
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS-USS IOWA	08-51-05 AOG 44 RCV'D
7. REPORTS	
A. PRESIDENT	
B. VICE PRESIDENT	
C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE	
D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE	
Approval of Comm. Buck & Gibbs Homeless Plan.	
E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE	
F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	
G. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE	
H. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE	
I. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS	
J. VETERANS DAY PARADE & MEMORIAL DAY	
8. OLD BUSINESS- S.F. High School JROTC support report.	
9. NEW BUSINESS	
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
11. HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT	
ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan & Sue Bierman & others.	

(IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND SEP. 11TH MEETING PLEASE CALL 982-3417)

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Cheryl D. Cook at the County Veterans Service Office at (415) 554-7100 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

The SF Veterans Affairs Commission meetings are held at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104 on the 1st Monday of each month. The closest accessible BART station is located at Civic Center. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are the 47 Van Ness, the 71 Haight/Noriega, the 19 Polk, the F-Line streetcar beginning at the Ferry Building at Market out to Castro and the MUNI Metro at Van Ness and Civic Center. For information about MUNI accessible services call 923-6142. There is accessible parking available at the Civic Center Plaza Garage located at 355 McAllister, between Polk and Larkin, Level One near elevators. Metered street parking is also available. The hearing room is wheelchair accessible.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. *FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE.*

Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, FAX: (415) 554-7854
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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEP. 11, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

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AMENDED MEETING AGENDA

09-07-06 (1) 12 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS-Commission USS Iowa Mayor & Board
Vallejo location support letter.
7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT
 - C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE
 - D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE
- Approval of Comm. Buck & Gibbs Homeless Plan.
 - E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
 - F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 - G. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
 - H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE
 - I. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS – Commission resolution in support of the Reserve Officers Association planned San Francisco June 2007 San Francisco National Convention
 - J. VETERANS DAY PARADE & MEMORIAL DAY
8. OLD BUSINESS- S.F. High School JROTC support report.
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT

ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan & Sue Bierman & others.

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Donna Hall
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SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2006 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of Aug. 7th meeting were approved
Commissioners present: Renie Champagne, Cheryl Cook, Ralph Gibson, Fred
Gomez, Chris Gruwell, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud
Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley, George
Gibbs, Charles Reed & Brian Zweir were not present. Wayne Snodgrass (Deputy
City Attorney), Marilyn Wong, (USS Iowa Committee), were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-Merilyn Wong reported that Vallejo is giving their full support to help bring the USS Iowa to Mare Island. They are going to present their request to the Navy. They have gathered many endorsements from cities and groups in the Bay Area. Comm. Gruwell asked if any other group was still trying to bring the USS Iowa to San Francisco. A few members of Merilyn's organization were trying, but it was felt their efforts had no chance to be successful.

President Wilson presented his letter in support of the Vallejo effort. Champagne made the motion in support of the letter, second by Wilkerson. Motion passed.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-President Wilson welcomed Chris Gruwell, who was just appointed to the Commission by Mayor Newsom. He was in the Army Infantry from 1990 to 1994. He operates a public affairs firm in the City & he worked for the Veterans Administration in Los Angeles. The Mayor also re-appointed Comm. Champagne to another term on the Commission. The Mayor is planning a memorial for Army Specialist 4 Chris Rose, the first San Franciscan killed in Iraq. The event will be held on Veterans Day. The Commission Web Site is up to date and everyone should examine the site.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT-Vice President Levin reported that we should support any effort that will help veterans, especially those that served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He reported how important it was to support the San Francisco High School JROTC. We need to save the program because it is in the best interest of the students, who want the program. Comm. Buck & Zweir slots on the commission will come before the Board Rules Committee in Sept.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE-Comm. Cook reported that she is serving as State Education Chair for the County Veterans Service Officers Association. She was contacted by Comm. Gibbs, who reported that he was meeting with Steve Kawa on Sept. 15. Comm. Gibbs wife is very ill & Comm. Wilkerson recently brought her flowers. Comm. Cook reported that the VA is now considering Vietnam veterans Agent Orange claims for those that served off of Vietnam.

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

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DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS-Comm. Cook reported that Comm. Gibbs and his Department of Veterans Affairs Director Rosenthal had an appointment to meet with the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Steve Kava. Homeless veterans is on the agenda.

HEALTH, WELFARE AND EMPLOYMENT-Comm. Thompson reported that the Department of Employment now has a program to help Iraq & Afghanistan war veterans find employment.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION-Comm. Cook presented Federal & State material on veteran's legislation. Key legislation Senate bills on Veterans Compensation, Montgomery GI Bill & Sheltering all veterans will be put on the commissions next agenda for evaluation & action. She presented Senator Feinstein's legislative report.

VETERANS DAY PARADE-Comm. Champagne reported that the Veterans Day Parade will be held on Sat., Nov. 11th. This will be the first time in memory that the City has allowed the Parade on a day other than the Sunday before Veterans Day.

S.F. HIGH SCHOOL JROTC-Lt. Col. Doug Bullard, Director of Army Instruction at Lowell High School, presented a status report on certain members of the School Boards efforts to get rid of the JROTC in San Francisco. This battle has been going on since 1995 and the School Board has been kicking the latest effort around for the past year. Board members Sanchez and Kelly are leading the present efforts. Their first ploy was to find a replacement program, which they have not been able to find. 1,600 students are part of this productive program. JROTC is there to make better citizens and has been doing that for over 90 years. The vote will take place after the November Election and is set for Nov. 14.

ROA S.F. CONVENTION-Comm. Levin presented a motion to support the Reserve Officers Association June 2007 San Francisco National Convention. Motion by Comm. Wilkerson, second by Comm. Champagne. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-Fleet Week is taking place on the weekend of Oct. 7 & 8. The Columbus Day Parade will be held on Sunday, Oct. 8th. Comm. Champagne reported that the Columbus Day Parade will feature Naval Academy Cadets.

ADJOURNMENT-Comm. Gomez made the Honors Committee report. The meeting was adjourned in memory of the 2,900+ members of the Armed Forces of the United States killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. Former Supervisor and Port Commissioner Sue Bierman, a true friend of veterans who always attended our Memorial Day event.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

**SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, NOV. 6, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104**

The Sons of Civil War Union Veterans will conduct a Memorial Service for Commissioner Charles "Corky" Reed, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006, 2:00 p.m., at Duggan & Welch Funeral Service, 3434 17th St., San Francisco

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, OCT. 2, 6:00 P.M.
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102**

MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 7. REPORTS**
 - A. PRESIDENT**
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT**
 - C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**
 - D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE**
 - E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**
 - F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 - G. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**
 - H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE**
- Approval of Comm. Buck & Gibbs Homeless Plan.**
- U.S. Senate bill H.R. 4843-Veterans' Compensation cost-of-living Adjustment Act of 2006. S. 615- Montgomery GI Bill Revitalization Act of 2005. S. 1180- Sheltering All Veterans Everywhere Act.**
 - I. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS**
 - J. VETERANS DAY PARADE & MEMORIAL DAY**
- 8. OLD BUSINESS- S.F. High School JROTC support report.**
- 9. NEW BUSINESS**
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 11. HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT**
- ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq**

(IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND OCT. 2 MEETING PLEASE CALL 982-3417)
(ALSO PLEASE READ MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM'S ATTENDANCE LETTER

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Cheryl D. Cook at the County Veterans Service Office at (415) 554-7100 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

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Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, FAX: (415) 554-7854
E-mail: Donna.Hall@sfgov.org

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SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, NOV. 6, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104

The Sons of Civil War Union Veterans will conduct a Memorial Service for Commissioner Charles "Corky" Reed, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006, 2:00 p.m., at Duggan & Welch Funeral Service, 3434 17th St., San Francisco

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

DOCUMENTS DEPT

2. ROLL CALL

OCT 23 2006

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

10-23-06A11:31 RCVD

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT

B. VICE PRESIDENT

C. COMMISSION BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE

Approval of Comm. Buck & Gibbs Homeless Plan.

E. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

G. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE

U.S. Senate bill H.R. 4843-Veterans' Compensation cost-of-living

Adjustment Act of 2006. S. 615- Montgomery GI Bill Revitalization Act of 2005. S. 1180- Sheltering All Veterans Everywhere Act.

I. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

J. VETERANS DAY PARADE & MEMORIAL DAY

8. OLD BUSINESS- S.F. High School JROTC support report.

9. NEW BUSINESS-Nomination of officers for 2007

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT

ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. Commissioners Charles Reed & Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife.

(IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND NOV. 6 MEETING PLEASE CALL 982-3417)

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2006 MEETING

NOV 27 2006

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

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President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of Sept. 11th meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Veronica Cauley, Cheryl Cook, George Gibbs, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, Renie Champagne, Ralph Gipson & Chris Gruwell were not present. Vince Rios & John Sexton were also present.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-President Wilson reported that he had some back problems & that he was getting back to normal. He introduced our new commissioner James Guglielmoni. Comm. Guglielmoni reported that he grew up in South San Francisco & he now lives in the City. He is Commander of DAV Chapter 144 & he is the Adjutant of AMVET Post 25. He works for Techtronis Industries, who service Home Depot Stores.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Levin reviewed the passing of Comm. Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife, Lucille Vernon Gibbs. He attended the very moving funeral for Fred Gomez (10/1), with Comm. Wilkerson & Wong. The very emotional & loving funeral for George Gibbs wife, Lucille Gibbs (10/6) with Comm. Wilkerson. The very impressive tribute to Charles Corky Reed (11/4), with Comm. Cook, who also presented some moving information about Corky. Three moving ceremonies for three unique individuals who deserved the tributes paid to them. He also reported that he attended the funeral for PFC Keith Jesse Moore (10/27). PFC Moore is the 2nd San Franciscan killed in Iraq. He enlisted in January & he was killed on Oct. 14th. All in less than ten months.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE-Comm. Gibbs presented a completed Homeless Veterans Plan. He urged the members of the commission to review the plan, so that we can pass it at our next meeting. Bring any changes to the next meeting. We must move this on to the Mayor's Office. Comm. Cook reviewed the plan & urged the commission to move it forward.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE-Comm. Cook reported some information from a report. There are now 24.5 million veterans, 1.7 million female veterans, 9.5 million veterans are now 65 years old or older, 8.1 million are Vietnam veterans & 3.9 million served during World War II.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS-Comm. Gibbs reported that his Veterans Center is moving along and are helping hundreds of veterans. They have a full medical team on hand. They have a need for clean men's clothing of all types.

They especially need coats & jackets. The veterans take everything that they get in & they have a need for much more.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE-Comm. Thompson reported that the VA to give him all of the job listings. He attended the Anniversary of the Veterans Service Center in San Bruno.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE-The 3 U.S. Senate bills that Comm. Cook introduced at our last meeting, U.S. Senate bill H.R. 4843 Veterans' Compensation cost -of-living Adjustment Act of 2006, S. 615 Montgomery GI Bill Revitalization Act of 2005 & S. 1180 Sheltering All Veterans Everywhere Act. Comm. Levin made a motion to support these bills, with a 2nd by Comm. Wilkerson. Motion passed.

NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATION-Comm. Wong reported that the VA is urging all veterans to wear their medals on Veterans Day. He also reported that the VFW Chinatown Post will have their annual dinner on Dec. 2nd.

VETERANS DAY PARADE & MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY-Comm. Wong reported that there are many events being held on Veterans Day, which means that there will be fewer units in the San Francisco Parade. Comm. Wilson reported that he & his wife have put together a unit in the parade of rescue dogs from all over Northern California.

SAN FRANCISCO HIGH SCHOOL JROTC-Comm. Levin reported that the School Board will vote on Nov. 14th on the JROTC. It appears at this time that they will vote to end JROTC in San Francisco. JROTC make up about one third of the units in the Veterans Parade.

NEW BUSINESS-Comm. Levin reported that Comm. Jill Buck has conducted a fantastic & outstanding effort to win the 18th Assembly District race.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2007

Comm. Wilson was nominated for the office of President & Comm. Levin was nominated for the office of Vice President. Election will be held at Dec. meeting.

ADJOURNMENT-in memory of the 2,900+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife Lucille Gibbs.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, DEC. 4, 2006, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS

NOV 27 2006

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2007

- A. PRESIDENT
- B. VICE PRESIDENT
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE

Approval of Comm. Buck & Gibbs Homeless Plan.

- D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
- E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
- I. VETERANS DAY PARADE & MEMORIAL DAY

8. OLD BUSINESS- S.F. High School JROTC support report.

9. NEW BUSINESS-

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT

ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq &
Afghanistan. Remembering Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs
wife, Lucille Vernon Gibbs.

(If you cannot attend the Dec. 4th meeting leave a message at 982-3417).

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2006 MEETING

JAN - 8 2007

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Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of Nov. 6th meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Renie Champagne, Cheryl Cook, George Gibbs, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, Veronica Cauley, Ralph Gipson & Chris Gruwell were not present. VFW Cooties State Commander Harold Bankley & John Sexton were also present. Also present was Kenneth Breiten, who has his application in for appointment to the commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT-Raymond Vaduche, Vice President of San Francisco Naval Heritage Museum. He & two other former members of the Historic Ships at Pacific Square have formed another group to bring the USS IOWA to San Francisco. They are promoting bringing the ship to pier 48. He stated that they will need three and a half million to make expenses. He claimed that they had the support from the Chamber of Commerce. He wants the support of the commission. Comm. Champagne made a motion, second by Guglielmoni to close this discussion until the San Francisco Naval Heritage Museum presents us with material that spells out their plan. Motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2007-Bud Wilson was nominated & elected President & Wallace Levin was nominated & elected Vice President.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-President Wilson reported that Merilyn Wong informed him that they are fund raising, the Navy will take action in 30 to 60 days & they will need about 20 million to bring the ship to Vallejo. She also thanked the Commission for all of the support that we have given the Historic Ships at Pacific Square during the past eleven years. He thanked Comm. Cook & Wilkerson for providing the food for tonight's meeting.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE-Comm. Levin made a motion that the Homeless Plan developed by Comm. Gibbs & Buck be sent to the Mayor & the Board of Supervisors. Second by Comm. Wilkerson. Motion passed. Comm. Levin reported that Comm. Buck ran a great campaign to win the Assembly seat in District 18, in the East Bay. She did not win but she did a fantastic job & will be a great candidate in the future.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE-Comm. Cook reported that she will soon fill her vacant position and that her office will open an office at Laguna Honda Hospital. She hopes to increase her staff in 2007.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS-Comm. Gibbs reported that his VA Office still needs clean clothing for homeless veterans. He especially needs men's warm coats.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE-Comm. Thompson reported that the SF Job Fair will be held at Fort Mason, on May 23, 2007. He and Comm. Champagne attend a meeting of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. They met the employment staffs from the VA Hospitals in Palo Alto & San Bruno. They also met 4 Iraq veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury. He was informed that 37% of Iraq veterans have this problem. Comm. Cook & Guglielmoni reported that this is a very big problem facing Iraq veterans.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE-Comm. Cook presented some material on legislation. Comm. Wong reported the VFW is supporting HR 5385, Military Construction & Military quality of life legislation.

VETERANS DAY PARADE-Comm. Champagne reported that JROTC S.F. Coordinator LTC Powell was the parade Grand Marshall. LTC Powell also directs the Lincoln High JROTC. Comm. Wilson & his wife sponsored a Rescue Dog unit in the parade that was the highlight of the event. Mrs. Wilson organized the unit from local military & law enforcement agencies. She should get a medal for her efforts.

NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATION-Comm. Wong & Dara Wong visited a WWII veteran, who was a POW for 42 months and survived the death march. The veteran is Francis Seidl & he is now living at a board & care facility. He also presented the fantastic VFW District 15 Newsletter. The publication is put together by Dara Wong & she also should get a medal. He reported that there is a petition to save the JROTC.

OLD BUSINESS-Comm. Levin reported on the School Board meeting, where the School Board voted 4 to 2, to do away with JROTC in 2008. There were about 1,500 high school students there & they were very upset with the vote. Many citizens are still working to save JROTC & we must not give up in our effort to save this important & productive program.

ADJOURNMENT-in memory of the 3,000+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife Lucille Gibbs.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, JAN. 8, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

JAN - 8 2007

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

MEETING AGENDA

01-08-07A 11:00 AMV

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS

COMMISSIONS POSITION ON USS IOWA SUPPORT

- A. PRESIDENT
- B. VICE PRESIDENT
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE
- D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
- E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
- I. MEMORIAL DAY & VETERANS DAY PARADE

8. OLD BUSINESS- S.F. High School JROTC support report.

9. NEW BUSINESS-

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT

ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq &
Afghanistan. Remembering Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs
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(IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND JAN. 8TH MEETING CALL 982-3417)

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2007 MEETING

FEB - 1 2007

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Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of Dec. 4th meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Jill Buck, Veronica Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Ralph Gipson, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioner Cheryl Cook was not present. 12 present, 1 not present & 2 open seats. Mrs. Renie Champagne & Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass were also present.

COMMISSIONS POSITION ON THE USS IOWA-Comm. Levin reviewed the San Francisco Naval Heritage Museum's (SFNHM) new effort to bring the USS IOWA to San Francisco. The commissions passed a motion (12/04/06), not to take any action until we are presented with a new completed plan from SFNHM.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-President Wilson reported that Merilyn Wong informed him that they are fund raising & things are moving along in their efforts to bring the USS IOWA to Vallejo.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Levin reported that Miguel Bustos is the new Mayor's Liaison to Commissions. He is attempting to coordinate the commission's actions with the Mayor's Office & he is meeting with commission's secretaries to accomplish this. New Supervisor from District 4, Ed Jew has been & is a good friend & supporter of veterans.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE-Comm. Gibbs was happy that the commission Homeless Plan developed by Comm. Gibbs & Buck was sent to the Mayor & the Board of Supervisors.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS-Comm. Gibbs reported that his VA Office still needs clean clothing for homeless veterans. He especially needs men's warm coats.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE-Comm. Thompson reported that the SF Job Fair will be held at Fort Mason, on May 23, 2007. There is a new health program called Real Life Line at Balboa Naval Hospital. When serious disabled veterans are hospitalized, their dependants are eligible for employment by the State of California.

NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATION-Comm. Wong reported that he will attend a Veterans of Foreign Wars meeting in Sacramento. He also reported on the VFW Voice of Democracy program. The event will be held at Mercy High & students will give patriotic presentations. He & his wife Dara will be honored at the District 15 reception in room 207, on Feb. 10, at 12 noon.

Comm. Guglielmoni reported that he was meeting with the Superintendent of Schools in South San Francisco to work on an Americanism Program. He is working on this program for AMVETS. Comm. Levin made a motion that he also be authorized to represent the commission. Second by Comm. Champagne. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS-Comm. Levin reported that today Supervisors Dufty, Maxwell, Daily & Jew were sworn in for their new terms.

Comm. Gruwell reported that it would be important if the commission did some new proactive projects. Comm. Gibbs supported this concept & he felt that new directions are very important. Comm. Gruwell suggested that we look into a program to give returning veterans short-term education loans. He will attempt to see if such a program is possible. Comm. Buck suggested that we work on a project that would be possible & that would get good press.

OLD BUSINESS-Comm. Levin reported many citizens are still working to save JROTC & we must not give up in our effort to save this important & productive program. The new School Board was sworn in & the Lincoln High JROTC presented the colors.

ADJOURNMENT-in memory of the 3,000+ Americans killed in Iraq & the 300+ killed in Afghanistan. We also remembered Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife Lucille Gibbs.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, FEB. 5, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

FEB - 1 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
02-01-07A:9:52 AMV
7. REPORTS
 WAR VETERANS SHORT TERM CITY EDUCATION LOANS
 A. PRESIDENT
 B. VICE PRESIDENT
 C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS COMMITTEE
 D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
 E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
 G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION COMMITTEE
 H. MEMORIAL DAY & VETERANS DAY PARADE
 I. NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
8. OLD BUSINESS- S.F. High School JROTC support report.
9. NEW BUSINESS-
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT
ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan.
Remembering Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife, Lucille Gibbs.

(If you cannot attend the Feb. meeting, leave a message at 982-3417).

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Cheryl D. Cook at the County Veterans Service Office at (415) 554-7100 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

The SF Veterans Affairs Commission meetings are held at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104 on the 1st Monday of each month. The closest accessible BART station is located at Civic Center. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are the 47 Van Ness, the 71 Haight/Noriega, the 19 Polk, the F-Line streetcar beginning at the Ferry Building at Market out to Castro and the MUNI Metro at Van Ness and Civic Center. For information about MUNI accessible services call 923-6142. There is accessible parking available at the Civic Center Plaza Garage located at 355 McAllister, between Polk and Larkin, Level One near elevators. Metered street parking is also available. The hearing room is wheelchair accessible.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. *FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE.*

Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, FAX: (415) 554-7854
E-mail: Donna.Hall@sfgov.org

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To inspect documents referred to on agenda, please contact: Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Department of Aging and Adult Services/County Veterans Service Office, 875 Stevenson Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, Office: (415) 554-7100, Fax: (415) 554-7101, E-mail: sfcvso@sfgov.org

LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF THE FEB. 5, 2007 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President Levin read the roll call in honor of having 15 members on board.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of Jan. 8th meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Jill Buck, John Caldera, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Ralph Gipson, Cheryl Cook, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Veronica Cauley & Edwin Wilkerson were not present. 13 present, 2 not present. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Legion District 8 Commander Vince Rios & Margaret Champagne (Aka Mrs. Renie Champagne) were also present.

REPORTS

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

VETERANS SHORT TERM CITY EDUCATION LOAN PLAN

Comm. Gruwell presented the general concept of the loan plan. He reported that he has talked with members of the Community College Board about this plan. He also checked with the Office of the City Treasurer & the Mayor. He was thinking about the loan or grant being set at one thousand dollars. Comm. Buck reported that she had spoken to members of the Presidio Trust Board, about providing low cost housing for veterans. Comm. Cook raised some interesting points pertaining to this plan. She reviewed some of the government education programs already available to veterans & suggested that the commissioners study the G.I. Bill. It was also suggested that interested commission members contact each other & work on this plan prior to the next commission meeting. Comm. Levin requested that before we can act on these good ideas, we must have something in writing brought before the commission for our evaluation.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Wilson reported that the Mayor had an event to thank commissioners at City Hall. We got short notice about the event. He wanted to make sure that our email list is up to date, so that when he gets notices like this he can inform all members of the commission.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Levin requested that our two new commissioners introduce themselves. Comm. Bob Varni was a Merchant Seaman during the Korean War & then joined the Army, where he served in Germany. Comm. John Caldera has been a member of the Alexander Hamilton Legion Post 448 for 8 years & he is a Navy Veteran. He served as a Hospital Corpsman & he led the 3000 ties project to honor the 3,000 killed in Iraq.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE-Comm. Cook reported that in the near future her office will move to another location, she has a new staff member & they will soon open a branch at Laguna Honda Hospital. Their present caseload is around 8,000. She passed out a list for commission member's personal cards.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS-Comm. Gibbs reported that his VA Office still needs clean clothing for homeless veterans. He especially needs men's warm coats. Comm. Cook reported that the Veterans Administration is putting a priority on helping veterans returning from Iraq & Afghanistan.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE-Comm. Thompson reported that the 17th San Francisco Job Fair will be held at Fort Mason, on May 23, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Building A. Comm. Wong passed out a job opening list from the U.S. Postal Service, who hire many veterans.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION-Comm. Wong reported that the VFW is against proposed legislation to give combat veterans special parking privileges, because it would take places from disabled people.

NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS-Comm. Wong reported that the VFW Voice of Democracy program will be held on Feb. 16th at Mercy High & students will give patriotic presentations. He & his wife Dara will be honored at the District 15 reception in room 207, on Feb. 10, at 12 noon.

Comm. Guglielmoni reported that he met with the Superintendent of Schools of South San Francisco to work on an Americanism Program. He is working on this program for AMVETS.

NEW BUSINESS- Comm. Caldera suggested that the commission support the concept of having a Veterans Ball or Dance every year at City Hall. He will work on a plan. Comm. Buck reported that she had information about what San Diego County has done in the area of homeless veterans. Secretary Levin reported that his wife's birthday will fall on April meeting date & he will not be able to attend the meeting. Thus someone else must do the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS-Comm. Levin reported many citizens are still working to save JROTC & we must not give up in our effort to save this important & productive program. He is helping the Lowell JROTC used toner cartridge project. The main mover of doing away with the JROTC Program, School Board member Sanchez was elected President of the School Board.

ADJOURNMENT-in memory of the 3,000+ Americans killed in Iraq & the 300+ killed in Afghanistan. We also remembered Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife Lucille Gibbs.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

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1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS

- A. PRESIDENT, Comm. Wilson
- B. VICE PRESIDENT/SECRETARY, Comm. Levin

REVIEW OF COMMISSION RULES, Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass

- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

VETERANS SHORT TERM CITY EDUCATION LOANS PLAN, written draft from Comm. Gruwell, for commission evaluation & action.

VETERANS LOW COST PRESIDIO HOUSING PLAN, written draft from Comm. Buck, for commission evaluation & action.

- D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE, Comm. Cook
- E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, Comm. Gibbs
- F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT, Comm. Thompson
- G. JROTC SUPPORT, Comm. Varni
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION, Comm. Wong & Cook

HOME OWNERSHIP FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS ACT OF 2007 (H.R. 551).

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT VETERANS' GRAVES (ASSEMBLY BILL 187).

- I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, Comm. Levin
- J. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS, Comm. Wong & Guglielmoni

8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. HONORS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. 3,450+.
Albert Camillo, World War II D-day Veteran & Mon Jew, Korean War Veteran.
Remembering Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife, Lucille Gibbs.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE MARCH MEETING CALL 9823417

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

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House bill would expand home ownership opportunities for California Veterans

WASHINGTON — Congresswoman Susan Davis and Congressman Wally Herger have introduced legislation to help California's veterans purchase a home.

The Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007 (H.R. 551) will allow newly discharged service members to take advantage of the Cal-Vet home loan program administered by the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Service members who are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan deserve the opportunity to use California's home loan program," Davis said. "It is time to correct this inequity and open the program to all of California's veterans. I am pleased to introduce legislation with Congressman Herger."

"For several years I've actively supported expanding access to Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds to open the door to homeownership for thousands of recent California veterans," said Herger. "It is my hope that, working together and on behalf of our state's veterans, we can shepherd H.R. 551 successfully through the legislative process, so new generations of California's servicemen and women can enjoy the benefits of home ownership."

The Cal-Vet home loan program is supported by bonds issued by the federal government. A provision in the law only allows veterans who signed up for military duty prior to 1977 to take advantage of federal financing. The Davis-Herger legislation removes the date-of-

service requirement opening up the home loan program to newly discharged veterans in California and Texas.

"I am pleased that California's representatives, Susan Davis and Wally Herger, have introduced this important legislation for our retired service members," said California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "The inequity in the federal law is unfair to our veterans, those who have fought to preserve our freedom and democracy."

In addition to Ms. Davis and Mr. Herger, seventeen other California Members of Congress have signed on as original co-sponsors. They are; Howard L. Berman, Brian P. Bilbray, Ken Calvert, Dennis A. Cardoza, Jim Costa, Sam Farr, Bob Filner, Michael M. Honda, Tom Lantos, Zoe Lofgren, Doris O. Matsui, Jerry McNerney, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Adam B. Schiff, Ellen O. Tauscher, Henry A. Waxman and Lynn C. Woolsey.

The legislation also indexes federal bond financing to a national housing measure to ensure funding remains compatible with the cost of housing. Wisconsin, Alaska, and Oregon are the other three states that utilize the federal home loan bonds for veterans. H.R. 551 has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

More information about H.R. 551 and our efforts to secure its passage can be found on the California Department of Veterans Affairs' website at: www.cdv.a.ca.gov/calvet/hr551.asp

Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007 (H.R. 551)

- H.R. 551 would allow every state eligible veteran to use bond proceeds from Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMBs) for home loans for those who signed up for military duty after 1977.
- Currently, only those who entered the military prior to 1977 are eligible for QVMB financing.
- Because of the date-of-service restriction, only 4.1 percent of California's veterans are eligible for a home loan through QVMB in 2007 and drops to 3.4% in 2008. H.R. 551 would open the program up to thousands of veterans in California.
- The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) is in a difficult situation when it comes to its veterans' home loan program. California is home to 2.2 million veterans and has several of the most expensive real estate markets in the United States.
- The ability to provide newly discharged veterans with QVMB loans would give many veterans the opportunity to purchase a home.
- Up to 200,000 active duty service members maintain an address in California by serving at a base there or identifying it as their permanent address. Many of these service members have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan but do not have access to a QVMB home loan once they leave the service.
- H.R. 551 would ensure that those fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan will have a greater opportunity to purchase a home in one of California's high-cost real estate markets.
- In addition, the legislation indexes the bond limit for QVMBs to Freddie Mac's national housing index to ensure the federal home loan program remains viable and compatible in each state eligible.
- California, Texas, Wisconsin, Alaska, and Oregon are the five states that use QVMB financing for veterans' home loans. Currently, California and Texas are the only two states unable to use QVMB bond proceeds to finance veterans' home loans for all wartime veterans.

Assemblyman Nakanishi Introduces Legislation to Protect Veterans' Graves

Assemblyman Alan Nakanishi (R-Lodi) introduced legislation that will ensure that the graves of veterans receive proper care and respect. Assembly Bill 187 will require local government agencies to maintain veteran's graves.

Many veterans' graves throughout California have been neglected over the decades, receiving no upkeep. AB 187 seeks to rectify the current situation in several areas. Under current state law, local government agencies are authorized, but not required, to care for and maintain the grave of a soldier. AB 187 will require that the board of supervisors of any county, and the governing body of the city, care for the grave of a plot in cemeteries devoted exclusively to veterans. If the organization shows it is in need of financial assistance, it can currently apply to the local board of supervisors for help. AB 187 will require

the local board of supervisors to care for such a plot for veterans when it receives a request for assistance. The legislation will also increase the amount of money available to indigent veterans for burial or cremation expenses.

"Brave men and women who paid for our freedom with their service should not be abandoned and neglected in death," said Nakanishi. "The state of some of California's veterans' graves is shocking and disgraceful. Our state has an obligation to honor these men and women and respect them in death."

Assemblyman Nakanishi served as a Major in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Assemblyman Nakanishi represents the 10th Assembly District, which includes the Counties of Sacramento, San Joaquin, Amador, and El Dorado.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF THE Mar. 5, 2007 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

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President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of Feb. 5th meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Veronika Cauley, John Caldera, George Gibbs, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, Renie Champagne, Cheryl Cook, Robert Varni & Edwin Wilkerson were not present. 9 present, 5 not present. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Native San Franciscan Miguel Bustos, Mayor Gavin Newsom's new Director of Commissions, attended the meeting to introduce himself to the members of the commission. He reported on his plans to develop better communication between the Office of the Mayor & all City commissions. He also wants to help the commissions become more productive. Miguel was brought up in the Mission District & still lives there. He has a Masters Degree International Conflict Resolutions. Comm. Gibbs & Wilson asked why the City does not provide the commission with a secretary.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Wilson reported that all information for the commission web site must be sent to him. More information is added to the site every month. Comm. Levin will not be at the April meeting because it is his wife's birthday & we need someone to do the minutes. Comm. Cauley agreed to do them.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Levin asked Deputy City Attorney

Snodgrass to brief the commission about the rules & regulation pertaining to our commission. He reviewed the purpose of the commission, the Brown Act & the Sunshine Ordinance. Commissioners cannot represent the commission or make statements for the commission, if they are not authorized by the commission to take such action. Comm. Levin reported how hard it is some months to get the minutes out. He also reported that every month he puts on the agenda "If you cannot attend the meeting phone 982-3417". No one lets him or Bud know that they are not going to attend the meetings. Of the five commissioners not here tonight, only one called.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

VETERANS CITY EDUCATION LOAN/GRANT PLAN

Comm. Gruwell has contacted many organization & agencies about this plan. Every semester there are about 30 veterans who are signing up for Veterans Benefits for the first time at City College. That adds up to 60 veterans a year. 80% are full time students. It takes 6 to 8 weeks to process their paper work & then they will receive funds 4 to 6 weeks after that. That adds up 10 to 14 weeks before they get funds from the GI Bill. City College does not provide advance pay to these veterans. His plan is for San Francisco to provide a one time advance for first time applicants from the Office of the City Treasurer. The amount would be no more than \$1,000. The Treasurer would work with a local bank. The College Board would also

participate & support this program. Time line would be to start this with the next semester. Comm. Gibbs suggested that it would be advisable to have the grants in the form of a voucher aimed at paying for a student's specific education needs. Comm. Cauley made a motion, seconded by Comm. Caldera to support this education support program. No action taken on this motion. Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass asked that the motion be more specific. Comm. Levin stated that we all support this plan, because it is a good plan to help local veterans. The problem is that it still not completely organized to go into action. Comm. Gruwell stated that the individuals that can make this program go forward are ready to go forward & he would rather spend his time trying to actually do the operational things like finding the money, finding the folks that are willing to do the program, finding the people at the school who are willing to move the plan. Comm. Caldera made a motion, second by Comm. Levin. The motion was to accept and move forward with this project that will coordinate between the Veterans Affairs Commission, the Mayors Office & City College to make available funds to first time veteran students at City College. That the program will start with the Fall semester in August 2007. Motion passed.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS-Comm. Gibbs reported that his VA Office still needs clean clothing for homeless veterans. He especially needs men's warm coats. A new shelter has been opened on 13th Street.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE-Comm. Thompson reported that the 17th San Francisco Job Fair will be held at Fort Mason, on May 23, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Building A. Real Life Line is a project to get jobs for the spouses of seriously wounded veterans.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION-Comm. Levin presented two bills that would support veterans & those that have died. Comm. Caldera made a motion, second by Comm. Thompson to support HR551 Federal legislation to help returning Iraq & Afghanistan veterans purchase homes. The other bill is Assembly 187, which will require counties to care for the graves of veterans. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL DAY-Comm. Levin reported that the Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at the Presidio, on Monday, May 28th. Parade will start at 10:30 a.m.

NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS-Comm. Wong reported that Wal-Mart is donating \$500 to buy special pillows for veteran needs at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital. He reported that there are problems at some VA Hospitals.

ADJOURNMENT-in memory of the 3,500+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan. We remembered Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife Lucille Gibbs. Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT, Comm. Wilson
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT, Comm. Levin's wife's birthday-no show & no report
 - C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS
- VETERANS CITY EDUCATION LOANS/GRANTS PLAN, Comm. Gruwell
- VETERANS LOW COST PRESIDIO HOUSING PLAN, written draft from Comm. Buck, for commission evaluation & action.
 - D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE, Comm. Cook
 - E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, Comm. Gibbs
 - F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT, Comm. Thompson
 - G. JROTC SUPPORT, Comm. Varni
 - H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION, Comm. Wong & Cook
- I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, Comm. Levin-You are invited to attend a meeting of the Mayor's Memorial Day Citizen's Committee, Wed., April 4th, 11:00 a.m., Presidio Building 201, Special Events Office, at Halleck & Gorgas Streets.
- J. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS, Comm. Wong & Guglielmoni

8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT
ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. 3,500+.
Remembering Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife, Lucille Gibbs.
(If you cannot attend this meeting, please let Bud know at 759-0654.)

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San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
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Meeting Information

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Minutes of the Veteran's Affairs Commission April 2, 2007

GOVERNMENT
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The Commission President called the commission to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The President took roll call attendance, and in attendance were the following Commissioners: Caldera, Thompson, Guglielmoni, Cook, Wilkerson, Champagne, Cauley, Wong, Baldonado, and Varni. Absent and excused were Gibbs, and Levin. Unexcused and not in attendance were: Buck, Gibson, Sr., and Gruwell. There were a total of ten Commissioners in attendance. Our City Attorney, Wayne Snodgrass was present, as was Mrs. Margaret Champagne.

Minutes from March were approved, as was the Agenda. (Unanimously)

Visitors were invited to speak, there were none; so there was no public comment.

Newspaper articles were discussed at this time. Mental Health problems of the returning veteran's, and how an airline received a returning veteran's remains from Iraq were topics. Group emails were discussed. Commissioner Baldonado was invited by the President to introduce himself to the commission. Mr. Snodgrass warned the Commissioners around the "group email" and the Sunshine Laws, and that we should be careful around content so it does not constitute a "meeting." Commissioner Cook rephrased and re-iterated Mr. Snodgrass's concerns.

The President took the County Veteran's report out of order, so that Commissioner Cook could leave early. She checked to see if everyone received their business cards. New Commissioners were invited to write down their information for their new cards, and she would put in a new order for them to receive their cards. She explained what it is that she, and her office does to the new Commissioners. She also said that she doesn't know whether or not she will be returning when her commission expires in January. She is trying to set up a satellite office at Laguna Honda Hospital, and has been expanding her staff due to a greater work load. Commissioner Cook presented the Commission with bills that we could ask the group as a commission to share with the Mayor, and the Board of Supervisors. A Commissioner "Code of Conduct" was passed out as well.

Goals and Plans: No Report

Veteran's City Education Loans: No Report. Item continued.

Low Cost Presidio Vet Housing Plans: Item continued.

Dept of Veteran's Affairs: Item Continued.

Health, Welfare, and Employment: Commissioner Thompson discussed the Job Fair that is coming up in September and discussed the fact that he had 14 groups on board so far.

Commissioner Varni (?) discussed what was going on with the Board of Education and the Jr. ROTC. The Board of Education voted 4-3 in favor of cutting out the Jr. ROTC in seven High Schools. He says that he is optimistic on the programs continuing.

Commissioner Champagne announced that on May 19th that there would be a Jr. ROTC Group drilling and performing. At the Presidio, and the various schools will receive their medals. The VFW will present six medals, and the seventh one will go to the Naval ROTC. Commissioner Thompson said that the Military Order of the Purple Hearts was going to award seven of the Medals.

Legislative: Commissioner Wong re-iterated Commissioner Cook's suggestion to look over the list of "Bills" that she handed out to see if there were any that we wanted the Commission, the Board, and the Mayor to support.

Memorial Day Ceremony: Posters were passed out for posting in various sizes. The President encouraged us to be sure and post them where they would be seen. It was discussed whether or not the Navy would be present. It is estimated that close to three thousand people attend the ceremony every year.

Veteran's Groups: Commissioner Wong discussed two issues. The first one was the VFW's stance on the troop withdrawal bill. Also, he said that the Veteran's Administrations discretionary spending bill was 6.6 million dollars; the biggest increase in seventy-seven years. Commissioner Wong discussed his delight that the Sr. ROTC programs are still intact at San Francisco State, and several other institutions. Commissioner Champagne said that the Daughters of the Revolution presented a cart not just to Fort Miley, but is also presenting one to the VARMC in San Diego. These are five passenger golf carts with wheel chair accessibility.

Commissioner Wilkerson went to the Falkland Islands. AK-47's upset him in Peru.

Old Business: none

New Business: Commissioner Caldera brought up the attendance letters and his concern. He expressed his concerns that the commission isn't a priority for all of the commissioners, and that getting up and down with phone calls and going in and out of quorum. Commissioner Wong expressed his concern that if we don't use the War Building for Veteran's then, the City would take over the building and we would lose it. Commissioner Champagne talked about the Mayoral Appointment's swearing in was coming up April 12, 2007. Commissioner Baldonado talked about the meeting in front of City Hall on April 9 for supporting of the Filipino Veteran's.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of the members of the military killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Also of the past Commissioners: Corky Reid and Fred Gomez, and Lucille Gibbs. There was a moment of silence in their memory.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Commissioner Veronika Cauley
Acting Secretary for this Meeting

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

1.

CALL TO ORDER

11:00 a.m. MST
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2.

ROLL CALL

APR 24 2007

3.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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4.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

6.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

7.

REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT, Comm. Wilson

B. VICE PRESIDENT, Comm. Levin

C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

VETERANS CITY EDUCATION LOANS/GRANTS PLAN, Comm. Gruwell

VETERANS LOW COST PRESIDIO HOUSING PLAN, Comm. Buck

D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE, Comm. Cook

E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, Comm. Gibbs

F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT, Comm. Thompson

G. JROTC SUPPORT, Comm. Varni

H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION, Comm. Wong

I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, Comm. Levin-Please attend a meeting of the Mayor's Memorial Day Citizen's Committee, Thur., May 10th, 11:00 a.m., at the Presidio, Building 201, Special Events Office, at Halleck & Gorgas Streets.

J. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS, Comm. Wong & Guglielmoni

8.

OLD BUSINESS

9.

NEW BUSINESS

10.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

11.

HONORS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT in memory of Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. 3,500+.
Remembering Charles Reed, Fred Gomez & George Gibbs wife, Lucille Gibbs.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2007 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of April 2nd meeting were approved.

Thank you Commissioner Veronika Cauley for doing the April minutes.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, George Gibbs, Chris Gruwell, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, Renie Champagne, Cheryl Cook, James Guglielmoni & Edwin Wilkerson were not present. Comm. Guglielmoni informed us that he could not attend the meeting & he was excused. Comm. Thompson reported that Comm. Cook's brother was ill & that is why she was not at the meeting. 10 present, 5 not present (2 Excused & 3 Absent). Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass was also present.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Wilson reported that before we forward anything to the Mayor or the Board of Supervisors we should carefully evaluate the material. He wants all of the commissioners email addresses, so that he can keep everyone informed on matters brought to his attention.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Levin reviewed some items pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs that have appeared in the media. He reported that they were sending back those killed in Iraq in commercial aircraft without the honors they deserved. This slight is reported to have been corrected. Comm. Gibbs felt that these were national issues & that we should stick to local veterans issues.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

Veterans City Education Loans/Grants Plan

Comm. Gruwell reported that the City Treasurers Office is working with the Financial Aid Office at City College on perfecting a form for veterans to use when they apply for a grant.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS-Comm. Gibbs reported that he is already working on the 2008 Stand Down. He also reported that he is going to retire from the VA at the end of this year. He also still needs clean men's clothing. His office's Director Bobby Rosenthal is leaving & they will get a new director.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE-Comm. Thompson reported that the 17th San Francisco Job Fair would be held, on May 23, 2007. They have 20 employers attending and they should have 1,300 clients.

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Meeting Information

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT, Comm. Wilson
 - B. VP/SECRETARY, Comm. Levin
 - C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS
- VETERANS CITY EDUCATION LOANS/GRANTS PLAN, Comm. Gruwell
- TRUSTEES VETERANS BUILDING SISMIC UPGRADE PLAN, Comm. Levin
- D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE, Comm. Cook
- E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, Comm. Gibbs
- F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT, Comm. Thompson
- G. JROTC SUPPORT, Comm. Varni
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION, Comm. Wong
- I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, Comm. Levin
- J. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS, Comm. Wong
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS-No July meeting for our traditional commission holiday.

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11. HONORS REPORT-For this committee to continue, we need a chairperson.
ADJOURNMENT in memory of 3,800+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan.
Remembering former commissioners Charles Reed & Fred Gomez.

If you cannot attend this meeting please let Bud know at 759-0654.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2007 MEETING

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Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda was approved.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, Jill Buck, John Caldera, Renie Champagne, Jim Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Robert Varni, Bud Wilson, & Raymond Wong. Margaret Champagne was also present. Comm. Veronika Cauley, George Gibbs, Cheryl Cook, Chris Gruwell, Michael Thompson & Edwin Wilkerson were not present. 9 present & 6 not present (2 excused & 4 absent). Comm. Gruwell & Thompson contacted President Wilson & they were excused.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Wilson reported that he needed a copy of the corrected April commission minutes. He read from a copy of Sam Spade's web site about the Memorial Day Ceremony. Jill Buck also wrote about the ceremony in another web site. Comm. Varni suggested that we develop a list of commissioner's organization membership. Comm. Wilson reported on the need for the Commission to have a phone number that people can call. Then we could call in to get our messages. He also reported the need for a Commission budget. Comm. Levin reported that we had an office in the Veterans Building. The Commission has a desk in room 123. Comm. Levin reported that he has been in contact with the Mayor's Office in an effort to get more funds for Memorial Day & he has informed them of the need for a budget for the commission. These funds are needed for a secretary, phone, etc. He requested time to see what the Mayor's Office will provide for the Commission. Comm. Levin reminded those present that the City has a 6 billion dollar budget. He made a motion, with a 2nd by Comm. Guglielmoni, that President Wilson send a letter to the Mayor & the Board of Supervisors, requesting a budget for the Commission of \$20,000. Motion passed.

SECRETARY/VP REPORT-Comm. Levin thanked commissioners, Buck, Caldera, Gibbs, Thompson, Varni, Wilson, Wong, Cook Guglielmoni & Wilkerson for attending the Memorial Day Ceremony & giving their support. Also thank you to Dara Wong. We have over 30 elected officials & it is always a disappointment when so few of them show up for the ceremony. This year only 7 showed up. They were Supervisors SEAN ELSBERND & BEVAN DUFTY, Treasurer JOSE CISNEROS, Senators LELAND YEE & CAROL MIGDEN, Assemblywomen FIONA MA & Congressman TOM LANTOS. They all have been informed of our appreciation.

Most of our elected officials do not even respond to their letter of invitation. He then read the letter about San Francisco's lack of support for the Memorial Day Ceremony that was given to the Mayor. The results of the letter have been positive. Comm. Varni pointed out that there are 50, 000 veterans in the City & that we should make an effort to reach them about issues pertaining veterans. He also said that we should invite the Governor to next year's ceremony.

COMMISSION GOAL & PLANS

Veterans Day Parade-The parade was evaluated, past, present & future, with input from Comm. Caldera, Varni, Levin, Buck & Wilson. Conclusion was that there was a need for improvement. Comm. Levin reported that it is easy to come up with ideas, but very hard to move those ideas forward, under the present conditions.

Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan-Comm. Levin reported that Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass would not be able to be at our meeting & he will give his evaluation of the plan at a future meeting. Comm. Caldera & Guglielmoni supported our concern over this issue.

JROTC SUPPORT-Comm. Varni reported that there has been no meeting of the JROTC Support Committee. Comm. Champagne reported that he had talked to Col. Powell, the JROTC Director. They have funds for this year. We must continue our efforts to have the JROTC program continue.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION-Comm. Wong presented some information on current bills before the State Legislators for evaluation by the Commission.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUP-Comm. Wong reported that he is still fighting the effort to merge District 15 with another district. Comm. Caldera reported that the Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion would have a key spot in the Gay Freedom Day Parade. Comm. Levin reported that they were the only American Legion post to march in the Memorial Day Parade.

OLD BUSINESS-Comm. Regalado Baldonado reported on two bills H.R. 760 (House) & S. 1315 (Senate) that would give Philippine Commonwealth soldiers who served in the U.S. Army during World War II, the same benefits as American soldiers. At that time they were promised these benefits. The Commission, the Board of Supervisors & all of our local Federal Legislators support these bills.

ADJOURNMENT-in memory of the 3,800 Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. Remembering former commissioners Charles Reed & Fred Gomez.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin.

No meeting will be held in July, as we will take our traditional vacation.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, AUG. 6, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

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MEETING AGENDA

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS

 A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Wilson

 B. VP/SECRETARY – Report on consultations with the Mayor's Office about the City providing a Commission Secretary & Commission Budget - Comm. Levin

 C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS,

 Veterans City education loans/grants plan - Comm. Gruwell

 Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan - Comm. Levin/DCA Snodgrass

 D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE - Comm. Cook

 E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs

 F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson

 G. JROTC & BLUE ANGELS SUPPORT - Comm. Varni

 H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION – Comm. Wong & Levin - Support for U.S. Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, bill HR3111. The bill would incorporate the Suisun Bay site of the Port Chicago Naval Base, where the largest World War II stateside disaster occurred in 1944. 320 people were killed, including 202 African Americans.

 I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin

 J. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Wong

 K. VETERANS DAY PARADE – Comm. Champagne & Wong

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT-For this committee to continue, we need a chairperson. ADJOURNMENT in memory of 3,900+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. Remembering former commissioners Charles Reed & Fred Gomez.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF AUG. 6, 2007 MEETING

AUG 23 2007

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of May 7th meeting were approved.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Cheryl Cook, Chris Gruwell, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley, James Guglielmoni & Edwin Wilkerson were not present. Comm.

Guglielmoni informed Bud that he could not attend the meeting because of family matters & Comm. Buck had a medical reason. They were excused. 11 present & 4 not present (2 Excused & 2 Absent). Margaret Champagne was also present.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Wilson reported that Merlyn Wong informed him that they are waiting for the Navy to give them the word on moving the USS IOWA to Vallejo. He received a call from the daughter of a World War I veteran, who informed him that there is a fountain in Golden Gate Park. It is in poor shape. He suggested that we develop a list all of the Veterans Memorials in San Francisco & that this would be a good project for the Commission. Comm. Levin reported that Comm. Cook worked on a State project to compile a list a few years ago. Comm. Cook reported that there are many memorials here. Comm. Varni suggested that we form a committee to move this forward. It will be placed on the next agenda.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Levin reviewed the Mayor's plan to place a new flagpole on the corner of Polk & Grove. This is the official City flagpole & it will be dedicated to all San Franciscans killed while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. He reviewed the Commission's need for a budget and that the letter should be sent to the Board requesting City financial support. Comm. Caldera asked about commission room use in the Veteran's Building. Comm. Levin reported that the Commission has had space in room 123 for over 23 years. It is available for use by any commissioner. Comm. Cook reviewed past efforts to get a budget for the Commission. Comm. Levin reported that we were lucky to have Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass assigned to this commission. He plays a major role in the City Attorney's Office & is part of many major cases.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

Veterans City Education Loans/Grants Plan

Comm. Gruwell reported that he met with the Mayor's Office of Community Development & they support the plan for a Veteran's Assistance Program for first time benefits for veteran students. The Treasurer is willing to fund it, if we have a grantor. He has requested that Wells Fargo fill this role. Comm. Cook requested that the full plan should be in writing & that the Veterans Service Office should be part of this program. Comm. Gruwell reported that this plan is for education benefits only. Comm. Levin reported that Comm. Cook has run the County

Veterans Service Office with skill & proficiency for over 12 years. It appears that some sections of our City government are not aware of this great & successful effort. He commended Comm. Gruwell for his efforts to move this loan program forward.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Comm. Cook reported that the County Veterans Service Office is going to open another office at the Vets Center on Polk Street. They will be there one day a week. They now have 4 employees & they have office hours at Fort Miley. Comm. Cook passed out legislation reports pertaining to veterans for evaluation & future action.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS-Comm. Gibbs reported that he does veterans outreach at the City prisons. He reported a great increase in the jails of Iraq & Afghanistan veterans. They need help from the government & they are not getting that help.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT-Comm. Thompson reported that they are now planning for the 20th Job Fair in 2008. The response this year was only fair.

JROTC SUPPORT-Comm. Varni reported that he has not been informed of any support meetings being held during the past month. The Blue Angels will fly over the City this year during Fleet Week.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION-Comm. Levin reviewed the legislation HR3111, U.S. Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez's effort to make available to the public the Suisun Bay site of the Port Chicago Naval Base, where the largest World War II stateside disaster occurred in 1944. 320 people were killed, the majority of which were African Americans. Motion of support by Comm. Levin, 2nd by Comm. Cook. Motion passed.

Comm. Baldonado reported that two bills H.R. 760 (House) & S. 1315 (Senate), would give Philippine Commonwealth soldiers, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II, the same benefits as other soldiers. They were promised these benefits. When the war ended the benefits were revoked.

NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS-Comm. Wong reported that District 15 will merge with District 14. Thus San Francisco & Alameda Counties will merge. None of the merges passed at the State Convention. The VFW Department of California has been sending inspectors to post meetings.

Comm. Caldera reported that he has moved to American Legion Bob Basker Post 315 & he is now the Commander. They will have a party for the late Bob Basker on Sep. 28th, room 223, Veterans Building, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. He would have been 89 this year. Comm. Levin was also a friend of Basker's & he presented his view of the history of Post 315.

Comm. Wong reported on the Oakland A's Salute to Veterans game. He suggested that the Commission contact the Giants about a future game to honor Veterans. It was suggested that Comm. Wong chair this event for the commission.

ADJOURNMENT-in memory of the 3,900+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, All of those that were killed in World War II.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, SEP. 10, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

Because Labor Day falls on Sept. 3rd we meet on the 2nd Monday

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER	DOCUMENTS DEPT.
2. ROLL CALL	AUG 23 2007
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	SAN FRANCISCO
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	PUBLIC LIBRARY
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS	
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS	
7. REPORTS	
A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Wilson	
B. VP/SECRETARY – Report on consultations with the Mayor's Office about the City providing a Commission Secretary & Commission Budget - Comm. Levin	
C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS, Veterans City Education Loans/Grants Plan - Comm. Gruwell	
Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan - Comm. Levin/DCA Snodgrass	
Formation of a sub-committee to develop a list of local memorials to veterans	
D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE - Comm. Cook	
E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs	
F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson	
G. JROTC & BLUE ANGELS SUPPORT - Comm. Varni & Gruwell	
Commission resolution in support of the Blue Angels flying during Fleet Week	
H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION – Comm. Wong & Cook	
I. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin	
J. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Wong, Baldonado, Caldera, & Guglielmoni	
K. VETERANS DAY PARADE – Comm. Champagne & Wong	
8. OLD BUSINESS	
9. NEW BUSINESS	
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
11. HONORS REPORT-For this committee to continue, we need a chairperson. ADJOURNMENT in memory of 3,900+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. Remembering former commissioners Charles Reed & Fred Gomez.	

If you cannot attend this meeting please let Bud know at 759-0654.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

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CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. ____

WHEREAS, since 1981, the City and County of San Francisco has hosted San Francisco Fleet Week activities; and

WHEREAS, Fleet Week is a civic celebration and an annual opportunity for Northern Californians to honor the men and women serving in the United States Navy, Coast Guard and Marines; and

WHEREAS, Fleet Week is also an opportunity for Northern Californians to honor all Veterans who have served in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, last year San Francisco was host to ten different U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and Canadian Navy vessels; and

WHEREAS, approximately 9,000 crewmembers on ten visiting ships from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and Canadian vessels arrived in the City to participate in Fleet Week; and

WHEREAS, the stars of Fleet Week were the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz which was berthed in the Bay and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels which performed two air shows and celebrated their 60th year anniversary; and

WHEREAS, thousands of residents and visitors came to San Francisco to visit the various ships and watch the Blue Angels; and

WHEREAS, for many years the Blue Angels have been a major attraction for Fleet Week and Fleet Week would be incomplete without them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission hereby supports the Blue Angels air show performance during the annual Fleet Week celebration in San Francisco; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission directs commission secretary to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the Blue Angels performance during Fleet Week.

Office of the Mayor City & County of San Francisco Gavin Newsom
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, August 13, 2007 Contact: Mayor's Office of Communications, 415-554-6131

*** STATEMENT ***

MAYOR NEWSOM'S STATEMENT ON THE BLUE ANGELS

While at the present time our country may be involved in an unpopular war in Iraq, it does not lessen my support of the members of the United States Armed Forces nor of the significance of the City honoring our troops and their families during the annual San Francisco Fleet Week events. Fleet Week and the Blue Angels air show are enormously popular with tourists and residents – generating significant amounts of revenue for the tourism and hospitality industries. Tax revenue generated by Fleet Week helps support city services such as police, fire, parks and recreation, schools, arts and cultural organizations, and other city programs.

I look forward to the return of the Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron this coming October – an opportunity to once again celebrate San Francisco's rich naval and maritime heritage.

###

3 Resolution approving San Francisco Fleet Week.

4

5 WHEREAS, Since 1981, the City of County of San Francisco has hosted San
6 Francisco Fleet Week activities; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 9,000 crewmembers on ten visiting ships from the U.S.
8 Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and Canadian vessels arrived in the City to participate in Fleet Week;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The visiting ships were berthed at Piers 80, 30/32, 27, 15/17 and Pier 35;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The stars of Fleet Week were the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz which was
13 berthed in the Bay and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels which performed two air shows and
14 celebrated their 60th year anniversary; and

15 WHEREAS, Fleet Week was one of the biggest event weekends on the City's
16 waterfront for the excursion industry attracting over a million visitors and residents to
17 participate in this civic celebration ; and

18 WHEREAS, Fleet Week drew a regional and national media spotlight on San
19 Francisco, highlighting our City's beautiful skylight, landscapes and cultural and economic
20 diversity, educating people near and far about the attractive possibilities of living, working or
21 visiting San Francisco; and

22 WHEREAS, The local sport fishing boat tours, maritime business and restaurant
23 industries were extremely busy during that weekend, impacting the increased revenue to the
24 local economy; and

1 WHEREAS, Pier 39, the Fisherman's Wharf Merchants Association and the
2 Fisherman's Wharf Community Benefit District, and the Port Commission have sent letters to
3 the Board of Supervisors in support of the Blue Angels performance during Fleet Week; and

4 WHEREAS, For many years the Blue Angels have been a major attraction for Fleet
5 Week and Fleet Week would be incomplete without them; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Small Business Commission hereby supports the Blue Angels
7 air show performance during the annual Fleet Week celebration in San Francisco; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Small Business Commission directs staff to send a
9 letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the Blue Angels performance during Fleet
10 Week.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SEP. 10, 2007 MEETING

SEP 28 2007

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, & Bud Wilson. Commissioners Jill Buck, Cheryl Cook, Chris Gruwell & Raymond Wong were not present.

Commissioners Wong & Cook informed Bud that they could not attend the meeting & they were excused. 11 present & 4 not present (2 Excused & 2 Absent). Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass & Margaret Champagne were also present.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of June & Aug. meetings were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT-Comm. Cauley voiced her concern about her status on the Commission & her concern that the commission has not selected her as president.

Vince Rios invited everyone to attend the American Legion event in honor of him & other veterans, on Friday, Sept. 28th, 3 to 6 p.m., at the Veterans Bldg. Green Room.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Wilson reported that he delivered the letters to the Board of Supervisors & the Mayor requesting a budget for the commission.

V.P./SECRETARY REPORT-Comm. Levin reported on some local veterans that had passed away. The minutes are not placed on the city website until they are approved by the commission. He reported that he was consulting with City Administrator Ed Lee about city financial support for the commission. The Mayor's project to dedicate the official city flagpole at Polk & Grove, to all veterans killed in all of America's Wars is in the works. The pole was cut down in August.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS-War Memorial Trustees Veterans Building

Seismic Upgrade Plan-Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass presented his evaluation of the War Memorial Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan. A review of his report will follow. Comm. Levin suggested that we send a letter requesting that the Board & the Mayor keep us informed as to the Upgrade Plan.

LOCAL VETERAN MEMORIALS-Comm. Varni reported on his research into the Foresters Golden Gate Park World War I Memorial Fountain. He located The Foresters Association of America chapter in Livermore. They now have only 9 local members & there are only 4 chapters in California. No one knew anything about this memorial. He suggested that maybe the memorial should be moved. This committee is now established with Comm. Varni & Gugliamoni as members.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS-Comm. Gibbs reported that their clothing drive for homeless veterans is going very well & they still need clothing.

JROTC & BLUE ANGELS SUPPORT-Comm. Varni reported that the Save JROTC Task Force is requesting that the School Board extend the life of the JROTC for an additional year. There are 250 JROTC units in the state & there is a move to do away with the JROTC unit credit, which will force them into P.E. The Blue Angels will fly over the city this year during Fleet Week. Comm. Guglielmoni

reported that without the Blue Angels the attendance goes down 50%. Supervisor Daly will re-introduce the same resolution at the Board meeting on 9/11/07. Comm. Levin made a motion, 2nd by Comm. Thompson & Champagne, to pass the commissions Blue Angels Fleet Week support resolution. Motion passed.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION- Comm. Baldonado reported that two bills H.R. 760 (House) & S. 1315 (Senate), would give Philippine Commonwealth soldiers, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II, the same benefits as U.S. soldiers. He reported that President Bush promised to sign this bill when it reaches his desk.

NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS-Comm. Guglielmoni reported that the DAV will sponsoring outings this month for veterans from Yountville Hospital, Fort Miley, Palo Alto & Livermore VA Hospitals. They are bringing a boat called Freedom from Monterey. They will conduct bay & river cruises for the veterans. Comm. Champagne reported that he assisted a group making a film on the freeing of the Philippines during World War II. He served on the battleship U.S.S. Mississippi, which played a major role in the invasion. The film is being made in support of Filipino veterans.

Comm. Caldera reported that local radio station Energy 92.7 honors citizens who help raise the bar in our community. This week they honored Comm. Caldera. AT & T donated \$500.00 to American Legion Post 315 in his honor. The Post will honor the late Bob Basker on Sept. 28, Veterans Building, room 223, 6 to 9 p.m.

Comm. Guglielmoni reported that this month they held the annual Monterey Rock Cod Derby. They took 150 vets fishing and it was a very successful event. Members of the Monterey Defense Language Institute staffed the event.

Comm. Thompson reported that the Military Order of the Purple Heart will hold an event in Oct. on the 2nd Anniversary of the opening of the San Bruno VA Out-patient Clinic. Barry Bonds will be the guest of honor.

VETERANS DAY PARADE-Comm. Champagne reported that the Veterans Day Parade would be held on Sunday, Nov. 11th. He requested that the parade start at 11:00 a.m. Daly City will dedicate their new Veterans Building at 2:00 p.m. on Nov. 11th. Comm. Caldera made a motion that the commission supports the starting of the parade at 11:00 a.m. Second by Comm. Baldonado. Motion passed.

HONORS REPORT-Comm. Levin reported on the following local World War II veterans that had passed away; Joe Aquino (Army, 27 years, Corregidor, POW), Judge Laurence Mana (Municipal & Superior Courts for 22 years), Al Graff (Navy, famous Bail Bondsman), Michael Joseph Casey (Battleship USS California, SFPD retired), Attilio Chiappari (Pearl Harbor, retired Chief Petty Officer, 20 years), Marion Webb (European-African Theatre & D-Day) & Captain Fred Gehrman, Jr. (Vietnam War, retired Navy, 30 years).

ADJOURNMENT-in memory of those named above, the 4,184+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the 3,000 Americans killed on 9/11/01 & the homeless veterans that died on the streets of the San Francisco during the month of August.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, OCT. 1, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER 09-28-07 A 10:54 REV'D

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

SEP 28 2007

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Wilson

B. VP/SECRETARY – Report on consultations with the Mayor's Office about
the City providing a Commission Secretary & Commission Budget - Comm. Levin

C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS,

Veterans City Education Loans/Grants Plan - Comm. Gruwell

Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan - Comm. Levin

Letter requesting that the Board of Supervisors & the Mayor keep this commission informed as to all actions taken pertaining to the War Memorial Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan.

D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE - Comm. Cook

E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs

F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson & Cauley

G. JROTC & BLUE ANGELS SUPPORT - Comm. Varni & Gruwell

H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION – Comm. Wong & Cook

I. LOCAL VETERANS MEMORIALS – Comm. Varni, Guglielmoni, Levin

Support for the Mayor's plan to dedicate the new official San Francisco Flagpole, at Polk & Grove, to all Americans killed while serving in the Armed Forces of the U.S.

J. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin

K. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Wong, Baldonado, Caldera,
& Guglielmoni

L. VETERANS DAY PARADE - Comm. Champagne & Wong

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT – Comm. Levin

ADJOURNMENT in honor of 4,200+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan.
Homeless veterans that died on the streets of San Francisco.

If you cannot attend this meeting please let Bud know at 759-0654.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF OCT. 1, 2007 MEETING

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

OCT 31 2007

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Renie Champagne, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley, Cheryl Cook & George Gibbs were not present. Commissioners Cauley, Cook & Gibbs informed us that they could not attend & they were excused. 11 present & 4 not present (3 Excused & 1 Absent). Dep. City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass & Margaret Champagne were also present.

Commission Meeting Agenda & Minutes of Sept. meeting were approved.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-Comm. Wilson reported that he was contacted by the Mayor's Office in response to our letter for a budget. We may have to change the day & time that we meet to get a secretary and we should get additional help.

V.P/SECRETARY REPORT-Comm. Levin reported that he has been consulting with the Mayor's Office during the past year, in an effort to get us a secretary & other support. A poll of the commission was held, with the first Monday & Wednesday as good days to meet. Starting at 5:00 p.m. also appeared to be good. The Mayor's project to dedicate the Veteran's Flag Pole at Polk & Grove, to all veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States is in the works.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS-War Memorial Trustees Veterans Building

Seismic Upgrade Plan-Comm. Levin reported that Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass made a presentation at our Sept. meeting. It has been transcribed & he will give us a written evaluation of the Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan.

Veterans City Education Loans/Grants Plan-Comm. Gruwell reported that he hopes to get the city to set aside \$20,000 for this project to help veterans at City College. A start up date could come before the end of the year.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT-Comm. Thompson reported on Oct. 24th the Veterans Employment Committee would meet to plan the 18th annual 2008 Job Fair at Fort Mason.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION-Comm. Wong reported that in Sept. he attended a VFW Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. He met with the staffs of ten members of Congress from Northern California about veteran's issues.

LOCAL VETERAN MEMORIALS-Comm. Varni reported that on the 10th floor of the Marines Memorial Club they have the names of all Americans killed in Iraq for public viewing.

JROTC SUPPORT-Comm. Varni reported that the Save JROTC Task Force is requesting that the School Board extend the JROTC for an additional year. There is also a plan to unite San Francisco's 55,000 veterans, in an effort to elect more pro JROTC members to the School Board.

FLEET WEEK BLUE ANGELS SUPPORT-Comm. Gruwell reported that the Board of Supervisors voted 7 to 3 in support of the Blue Angels. He made a motion that we thank those that gave their support to the Blue Angels. 2ND by Comm. Champagne. Motion passed. Comm. Gruwell made a motion that we convey our Fleet Week Support Resolution & thanks to Edward Leonard, Fleet Week Chairman. 2nd by Comm. Wong. Motion passed.

NATIONAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS-Comm. Wong reported that the VFW is conducting a free trip to Vietnam drawing for veterans that received the Purple Heart Medal. The Chinatown VFW Chinatown post will hold their 62nd Anniversary Dinner on Dec. 8th, 6:00 p.m., at the Four Seasons Restaurant. Comm. Guglielmoni reported that he was appointed by the American Legion to the Freedom Foundation & he was appointed to the DAV Legislative Committee. Comm. Caldera reported that only a few posts attend the monthly American Legion District 8 meetings.

Comm. Levin reported that the American Legion War Memorial Commission would have an election for Chairman on Oct. 16th.

VETERANS DAY PARADE-Comm. Champagne reported that the Veterans Day Parade would be held on Sunday, Nov. 11th. The parade starts at 11:00 a.m. Daly City will dedicate their new Community Building at 2:00 p.m. on Nov. 11th.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT-Comm. Levin reported that we should adjourn in memory of the 4,300+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died on the streets of the San Francisco during the month of September & former commissioner Charles "Corky" Reed, whose ashes were recently spread near Custer's Grave, at the Little Big Horn.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, NOV. 5, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

10-31-0710450.DOCU

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

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6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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7. REPORTS

NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Wilson

B. VP/SECRETARY - Report on consultations with the Mayor's Office about
the City providing a Commission Secretary & Commission Budget - Comm. Levin

C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS,

Veterans City Education Loans/Grants Plan - Comm. Gruwell

Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan - Comm. Levin

Letter requesting that the Board of Supervisors & the Mayor keep this commission
informed as to all actions taken pertaining to the War Memorial Trustees Veterans
Building Seismic Upgrade Plan.

D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE - Comm. Cook

E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs

F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson & Cauley

G. JROTC & BLUE ANGELS SUPPORT - Comm. Varni & Gruwell

H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong & Cook

I. LOCAL VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni, Guglielmoni, Levin
Mayor's dedication of the new official San Francisco City Hall Veteran's Flag Pole,
in honor of San Franciscans that served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

J. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin

K. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Wong, Baldonado, Caldera,
& Guglielmoni

L. VETERANS DAY PARADE - Comm. Champagne & Wong

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT - Comm. Levin

ADJOURNMENT in honor of 4,250+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan.

In memory of homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during October.

If you cannot attend this meeting please let Bud know at 759-0654.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Cheryl D. Cook at the County Veterans Service Office at (415) 554-7100 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. *FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE.*

Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, FAX: (415) 554-7854
E-mail: Donna.Hall@sfgov.org

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at www.sfgov.org

To inspect documents referred to on agenda, please contact: Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Department of Aging and Adult Services/County Veterans Service Office, 875 Stevenson Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, Office: (415) 554-7100, Fax: (415) 554-7101, E-mail: sfcvso@sfgov.org

LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF NOV. 5, 2007 MEETING

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

NOV 29 2007

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Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Renie Champagne, Cheryl Cook, George Gibbs, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong.

Commissioners Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley & Chris Gruwell were not present.

Commissioner Gruwell informed us that he could not attend & he was excused. 12 present & 3 not present (1 Excused & 2 Absent). Ingrid Serembe, Ralph Gipson, Margaret Champagne & Dara Wong were also present.

Commission Nov. Agenda & Minutes of Oct. meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Ingrid Serembe, Commander of American Legion Post 505, spoke about her posts concern about the moving costs, where the veterans will have their offices & meetings, when we will be out of the Veterans Building, during the Seismic Upgrade. She was informed that this subject is part of our monthly agenda for evaluation & action. That the Trust Agreement clearly states that the War Memorial Trustee's, appointed by the Mayor, will deal only with an organization made up of the San Francisco posts of the American Legion, in all issues pertaining to the Veterans Building. That this commission has no authority in the War Memorial Veterans Building.

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT FOR 2008

Comm. Champagne nominated Vice President Levin for President. Second by Comm. Wong. There were no other nominations for President.

Comm. Wong nominated Comm. Varni for Vice President. Second by Comm. Thompson. Comm. Caldera asked if he could nominate himself & was then nominated by Comm. Gibbs. Second by Comm. Baldonado.

Additional nominations & election will be held at the Dec. 3rd meeting.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – Comm. Wilson reported that we now have an official City & County of San Francisco phone 554-6036, for the first time in 23 years. He thanked the majority of the commission that attended the Mayor's Flag Pole dedication to all San Francisco veterans of the Armed Forces of the U.S.

V.P./SECRETARY REPORT - Comm. Levin reported that because we did not give up we now have a phone & other support from the City. After a discussion the members of the commission agreed to continue to meet on the first Monday of the month, at 6:00 p.m., at the Veterans Building. He will work on the other support.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS-War Memorial Trustees Veterans Building

Seismic Upgrade Plan - Comm. Levin reported that Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass will give us a written evaluation of the Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan. Then the commission will be in a better position to take action.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE - Comm. Cook reported on & presented new veterans legislation for evaluation. They just opened a Friday out station at the Downtown Clinic. The office just celebrated their 5th year at Fort Miley. They will be moving their main office soon.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs reported that the VA is increasing their effort to help veterans in prison. They are working on the August 2008 Veterans Stand Down in the East Bay.

HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson reported that on May 14, 2008, the 18th annual San Francisco Job Fair will be held at Fort Mason. Comm. Caldera urged everyone to support the VA's effort to collect used clothing for homeless veterans.

JROTC & BLUE ANGELS SUPPORT - Comm. Varni reported that the JROTC Support Committee is trying to get a year extension for JROTC. Also they are trying to get people that support JROTC to run for the School Board.

LOCAL VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni reported on the Foresters of America's World War I Golden Gate Park Fountain Memorial, which was dedicated in 1927. The fountain was originally made for horses to get water & later became a planter for flowers. The future location also needs to be evaluated.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY – Comm. Levin reported that this commission is the main coordinator of the Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony & all commissioners support & participation is needed.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS-Comm. Wong reported that the VFW Chinatown post will hold their 62nd Anniversary Dinner on Dec. 8th, 6:00 p.m. at the Four Seasons Restaurant.

VETERANS DAY PARADE-Comm. Champagne reported that the Police Dept. informed him today (Nov. 5) that the starting point of the Parade would be at Beale St. & not at 2nd St. This was because of the large conference at the Moscone Center.

OLD BUSINESS – Comm. Cook reported that the requests for commissioner's cards have been delayed, because the order requests had been lost during inter-office transmission. She hoped to have this problem resolved as soon as possible.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT-Comm. Levin reported that we should adjourn in memory of the 4,300+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died on the streets of the San Francisco during the month of October. In honor of former writer Jack Rosenbaum. He was a World War II veteran & for 50 years he plugged veteran events in the local press.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin, 982-3417. Next meeting Dec. 3, 2007.

11-29-07-2007-1157

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, DEC. 3, 2007, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. ROLL CALL SIGN IN SHEET
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 7. REPORTS

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NOMINATION & ELECTION OF 2008 PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Wilson

B. VP/SECRETARY - Report on consultations with the Mayor's Office about the City providing a Commission Secretary & other support - Comm. Levin

C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS,

Veterans City Education Loans/Grants Plan - Comm. Gruwell

Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan - Comm. Levin

Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass's written review

Letter requesting that the Board of Supervisors & the Mayor keep this commission informed as to all actions taken pertaining to the War Memorial Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan.

D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE - Comm. Cook

E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs

F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson & Cauley

G. JROTC & BLUE ANGELS SUPPORT - Comm. Varni & Gruwell

Resolution in support of the San Francisco High School JROTC Program

H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong & Cook

I. LOCAL VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni, Guglielmoni, Levin

Mayor's new official San Francisco City Hall Veteran's Flag Pole, dedicated to all San Franciscans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

J. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin

K. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Wong, Baldonado, Caldera, Guglielmoni & Wilkerson

L. VETERANS DAY PARADE - Comm. Champagne & Wong

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT - Comm. Levin

ADJOURNMENT in honor of 4,300+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan.

In memory of homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during November.

If you cannot attend this meeting please let us know at our (for the first time in 23 years) City and County of San Francisco phone #554-6036.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF DEC. 3, 2007 MEETING

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Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

President Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Renie Champagne, Cheryl Cook, George Gibbs, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong.

Commissioners Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley & Chris Gruwell were not present. 12

present & 3 not present. Margaret Champagne & Dara Wong were also present.

Commission Dec. Agenda was approved. Minutes of Nov. meeting were approved.

Motion by Comm. Varni, 2nd by Comm. Guglielmoni. Comm. Cook voted no & Comm. Caldera abstained. Comm. Caldera requested that under Public Comments his report of receiving a letter of concern about the Upgrade Plan that he received from Arch Wilson, Adjutant of the American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post 448, be added to the minutes. He also wanted his claim that one quarter of all homeless in America are veterans & that there was a high rate of suicides among returning Iraq veterans, added to the minutes under Health, Welfare & Employment. These additions were added to the November 2007 minutes. Comm. Champagne questioned the number of homeless veterans reported. Comm. Guglielmoni reported that the Veterans Administration reported that in 2005 nationally there were 744,000 homeless people & that of this number 194,000 were veterans.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2008 – Comm. Wilson re-opened the nominations. Those nominated at the Nov. meeting were Comm. Levin for President. Comm. Varni & Comm Caldera for Vice President. There were no additional nominations. By written ballot Comm. Levin was elected President & Comm. Varni was elected Vice President for 2008.

PRESIDENT REPORT – Comm. Wilson reported that he had been informed by Sue Turley, who lost her son in Iraq, that the organization Wreaths of America would have a ceremony at the Presidio National Cemetery on Dec. 15th. They will also place wreaths on many of the graves. This project pays tribute to deceased veterans during the Christmas Season. Specifically honoring those killed in Iraq.

VICE PRESIDENT – Comm. Levin reported on the meeting held at House Speaker Pelosi's Office. There were many from those groups that actually are providing service to veterans. Pelosi's Office will develop a list of those that are helping veterans & will hold additional meetings.

JROTC SUPPORT – Comm. Varni reported that the School Board did not approve a resolution to continue the JROTC for another year, but at the same time do away with the Lowell & Mission High JROTC. Board President Sanchez pulled the resolution prior to the vote.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION – Comm. Cook passed out information on Federal legislation for the commission to evaluate. Selected bills will be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting. Comm. Baldonado felt that H.R.0760 Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007 should be Filipino American Veterans Equity Act.

LOCAL VETERANS MEMORIALS – Comm. Varni reported that he is looking into how much it would cost to repair the Golden Gate Park Forrester's Fountain. Comm. Caldera presented a request that the commission support the combined effort of the American Legion Bob Basker Post 315 & the Veterans For Peace, Chapter 69's endeavor to hang 4,000 computer disks from the trees across from City Hall, when 4,000 Americans are killed in Iraq. Comm. Levin reported that the Mayor's Veteran's Flag Pole Project has been completed. The lights & the plaque have been installed.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUP – Comm. Wong & Comm. Guglielmoni reported that all mail to members of the Armed Forces must have the name of a specific person & their address.

VETERANS DAY PARADE – Comm. Champagne reported that they had many problems because of the last minute change of the starting point of the parade. But even with this problem it was a successful parade. In 2008 Rotary International will celebrate their 100% Anniversary & they will be a major part of the parade.

NEW BUSINESS – Comm. Cook requested that the commission have a set mailing address, so that all mail for the commissioners can reach the commissioners in a timely manner. Comm. Levin reported that the City will provide us with a City Hall address at the start of 2008.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT Comm. Levin reported that 4,300+ Americans have been killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. We should adjourn in their honor & also in honor of all of the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during the month of November.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, JAN. 7, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT – Comm. Varni
 - C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

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Veterans City Education Loans/Grants Plan - Comm. Gruwell

Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan - Comm. Levin

Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass's Seismic Upgrade written review

Commission letter to the Mayor & Board requesting data on Upgrade.

- D. COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE - Comm. Cook
- E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs
- F. HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson
- G. JROTC & FLEET WEEK BLUE ANGELS - Comm. Varni

Commission support for the students in S.F.'s High School JROTC Programs.

- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong & Cook

Commission support for the following legislation; H.R.0067, 0156, 0243, 0315, 0327, 0333, 0402, 0579, 0650, 0760, 1110, 1115 & 1435.

I. LOCAL VETERANS MEMORIALS - Golden Gate Park Forrester's Fountain - Comm. Varni & Guglielmoni
Commission support for the combined efforts of the American Legion Bob Basker Post 315 & the S.F. Veterans for Peace, Chapter 69's endeavor to hang 4,000 computer disks from the trees across from City Hall, when 4,000 Americans are killed in Iraq - Comm. Caldera

J. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin
K. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Baldonado, Caldera, Cauley, Guglielmoni, Wilkerson, Wilson & Wong
L. VETERANS DAY PARADE - Comm. Champagne & Wong

8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT - Comm. Levin

ADJOURNMENT in honor of 4,300+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan.

In memory of homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during December.

If you cannot attend this meeting please inform us at #554-6036.

(We can thank Jill Lerner of the Office of the City Administrator for this phone)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

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Frank Darby, Administrator
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
554-7724

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Administrator of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at www.sfgov.org.

DISABILITY ACCESS

The Veterans Building is between Grove and McAllister Streets and is wheelchair accessible. The closest BART and MUNI Metro Station is Civic Center, about three blocks away. Accessible MUNI lines nearest City Hall are: 42 Downtown Loop, 49 Van Ness-Mission and F-Market & MUNI Metro (Civic Center Station).

For more information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142. There is accessible parking available in the vicinity of City Hall.

For assistance with special needs (large print agendas, sign language interpreters, etc.), call Jill Lerner at 554-6075.

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**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JAN. 7, 2008 MEETING**

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

President Levin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, Jill Buck, John Caldera, Cheryl Cook, George Gibbs, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong.

Commissioners Veronika Cauley & Renie Champagne were not present. 13 present & 2 not present. Comm. Champagne was excused. Dara Wong was also present.

Commission agenda for Jan. & the minutes of the Dec. 2007 meeting were approved.

HOMELESS VETERANS REVIEW – Comm. Caldera presented the following data on homeless veterans; U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Overview of Homelessness, Aug. 29, 2007, "About one-third of the adult homeless population have served their country in the Armed Services". American Veterans Coalition, 1996 Homeless Statistics release date 1999, "33% of the homeless population are veterans". National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, "23% of homeless population are veterans". American Legion Veteran's Day 2007, "23% of America's homeless population are veterans".

PRESIDENT REPORT – Comm. Levin thanked Comm. Wilson for being the commission President during the past two years & especially thanked him for his work on our web site.

JROTC SUPPORT – Comm. Varni reported that the School Board approved a resolution to continue the JROTC for another year & a community committee is being developed to continue supporting the JROTC program. After a discussion a vote was taken with the majority of the commission supporting our continued efforts to support the San Francisco High School JROTC program.

VETERANS CITY EDUCATION LOANS/GRANTS PLAN – Comm. Gruwell reported that there have been some changes at the Mayor's Office & that he will continue his efforts to start this program.

TRUSTEES VETERANS BUILDING SEISMIC UPGRADE PLAN – Deputy City Attorney Snodgrass presented copies of his evaluation of the Seismic Upgrade Plan, Transferable Development Rights and the Veterans Building.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE – Comm. Cook reported on & presented the latest Women & Minority Veterans Quarterly Newsletter from the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – Comm. Gibbs reported that he has retired after 31 years of service from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He now plans to work as a volunteer.

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

FEB - 1 2008

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HEALTH, WELFARE & EMPLOYMENT – Comm. Thompson reported that the Veterans Employment Committee (VEC) is sending out 2000 invitations to business firms inviting them to attend the May 21st Job Fair at Fort Mason. Commission members Cook, Wilkerson & Thompson are all members of the VEC.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION Comm. Wong moved & Comm. Thompson seconded a motion to support H.R. 0067, 0156, 0243, 0315, 0327, 0333, 0402, 0579, 0650, 0760, 1110, 1115 & 1435. That this support be conveyed to the Mayor & the Board of Supervisor. Motion passed. Comm. Baldonado conveyed his concern about the passage of H.R. 0760, which would give Philippine Commonwealth soldiers, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II, the same benefits as U.S. soldiers.

LOCAL VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Caldera presented a request that the commission support the combined effort of the American Legion Bob Basker Post 315 & the Veterans For Peace, Chapter 69's endeavor to hang 4,000 computer disks from the trees across from City Hall, when 4,000 Americans are killed in Iraq.

After a discussion a vote was taken & the motion was defeated by a vote of 7 to 5.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUP –Comm. Gruwell requested that we send a letter of thanks to a local firm called Working Assets, that presented 90-minute calling cards to veterans that were in our local hospitals.

OLD BUSINESS – Comm. Caldera presented his written monthly report of his participation in veteran's activities during December and he challenged his fellow Commissioners to do the same each month.

NEW BUSINESS – Comm. Caldera requested a written report & a financial report on the Veterans Day Parade & the Memorial Day Ceremony. His request was so that he can have transparency on these two events.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Comm. Cook presented a moving review of her service on the commission & her thoughts about veterans. She wished the commission success in the future. The members of the commission conveyed their appreciation to her. Comm. Levin requested that all commissioners work up a short bio on their veteran's background.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT Comm. Levin reported that 4,300+ Americans have been killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. We should adjourn in their honor & also in memory of all of the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during the month of December.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, FEB. 4, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

B. VICE PRESIDENT – Comm. Varni

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C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS

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D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs

E. EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, & WELFARE - Comm. Thompson

F. JROTC STUDENT SUPPORT - Comm. Varni

G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong

H. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY – Comm. Levin

I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Comm. Gruwell request that we send a letter of thanks to a firm called Local Assets to thank them for presenting 90-minute calling cards to hospitalized veterans.

J. VETERANS MEMORIALS – Forrester's Fountain – Comm. Varni

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,350+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan. & the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during January.

If you cannot attend this meeting please inform us at #554-6036.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF Feb. 4, 2008 MEETING

Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Commissioner Champagne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Regaldo Baldonado, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. Commissioners Jill Buck, George Gibbs, Chris Gruwell & James Guglielmoni were not present. 10 present & 4 not present. Comm. Buck, Gibbs & Guglielmoni were excused. John Gallagher, Dara Wong & Margaret Champagne were also present.

Commission agenda for Feb. & the minutes of the Jan. 2007 meeting were approved.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - Comm. Levin introduced John Gallagher who is now working at the San Francisco County Veterans Service Office. He served with the Marine Corp. & was released from active duty in 1999. Asian Week newspaper plans to do a story about Asians on commissions. They requested a photo from Comm. Wong & Baldonado.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT - Comm. Varni reported that the Community Committee to save the JROTC Program are holding meetings & are planning many efforts to keep the program going.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS - Comm. Levin attended the American Legion War Memorial Commission meeting on Feb. 4, pertaining to the War Memorial Trustees Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade Plan. He conveyed his concern about how the veterans will be able to move from the Veterans Building, where will the veterans possessions be stored & where will they meet. He hoped to get them to pass a resolution on this issue.

EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, & WELFARE - Comm. Thompson reported that the Veterans Employment Committee (VEC) will present on May 14th the 18th Annual Job Fair at Fort Mason. They are sending out 2000 invitations to business firms inviting them to attend.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION Comm. Wong reported on Assembly Bill No. 1814. This bill would allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to give funds directly to veteran service organizations to help veterans with their benefit claims. This would be in addition to the County Veterans Service Offices, which are financed by the State. At present the veteran service organizations provide their own funds to pay for their benefit aid to veterans. He also reported on Speaker Nancy Pelosi statement praising the release of the \$3.7 billion in additional veterans funding provided by Congress.

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NEW BUSINESS – Comm. Cauley, who has been very active in Project Homeless Connect, Mayor Newsom's city program that helps the homeless. They have major events every few months. She has presented a plan to Project Homeless Connect to do an event that would be strictly for veterans and that the event would be held at the War Memorial Veterans Building. The members of the commission supported this great project and the commission will work with Project Homeless Connect to make this happen. Comm. Cauley was commended for this program.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin reported on the Memorial Day Ceremony. The first action is to contact all of those that supported and participated in prior ceremonies, so that the support for this year's event could be evaluated.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUP - Comm. Wong reported that VFW District 15 would have their Voice of Democracy Award Ceremony at Mercy High, on Feb. 8.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Comm. Caldera reported that the American Legion Dept. of California would start their Rehab Fund Drive to aid veterans on March 1st.

OLD BUSINESS - Comm. Caldera requested a report on the Veterans Day Parade & the Memorial Day Ceremony. Comm. Levin & Champagne made an effort to explain how the events are planned. Both events are funded by the Grants For the Arts, Hotel Tax Fund. Veterans put the programs together for the city & the Mayor. Comm. Varni voiced his concern about the Veteran's Building & the need to review the documents that explain the rights of veterans in the Veterans Building.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,300+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during the month of January, Dr. Ted Winn, Owen Hyland, Donald Gordon & David Barton.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104

MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. ROLL CALL
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

7. REPORTS

- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
- B. VICE PRESIDENT – Comm. Varni
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS –

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Commission support for the American Legion War Memorial Commission's Required Seismic Retrofit Exodus from Veterans Building, Feb. 19, 2008 Resolution, to the War Memorial Trustees.

Veterans Affairs Commission seismic retrofit American Legion support letters to the Mayor & the Board of Supervisors.

- D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs
- E. EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, & WELFARE - Comm. Thompson

Commission support for the Veterans focused Project Homeless Connect event, on July 23, 2008, at the War Memorial Veterans Building.

- F. JROTC STUDENT SUPPORT - Comm. Varni
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
- H. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY – Comm. Levin

I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Comm. Gruwell requested that we send a letter of thanks to a firm called Local Assets, to thank them for presenting 90-minute calling cards to hospitalized veterans. He will prepare the letter with the needed information.

- J. VETERANS MEMORIALS – Forrester's Fountain – Comm. Varni

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,350+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during Feb., Tom Lantos, Robert Young, Eugene Dawydiak, John Wilkes & Mark Sheehy.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

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**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
415-554-6036
MINUTES OF March 3, 2008 MEETING**

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Commissioner Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Jill Buck, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson & Bud Wilson. Commissioners Regalado Baldonado, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni & Raymond Wong, were not present. 10 present & 4 not present. Comm. James Guglielmoni & Raymond Wong were excused. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Dara Wong, Margaret Champagne, Ralph Gibson and Darryl Toscas were also present.

Commission March agenda & the minutes of the Feb. 2008 meeting were approved.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS - Comm. Levin reported on the Commission letters of support to the Mayor & Board of Supervisors for the American Legion War Memorial Commission's Required Seismic Retrofit Exodus from the Veterans Building, Feb. 19, 2008 Resolution to the War Memorial Trustees. Motion by Comm. Caldera & second by Comm. Cauley. Motion passed.

EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley reported on Commission support for the veteran focused Project Homeless Connect Stand Down, on July 23, 2008, at the War Memorial Veterans Building. Motion by Comm. Buck & second by Comm. Cauley. Motion passed.

Comm. Thompson reported that the Veterans Employment Committee sent out 2,500 invitation letters to employers in San Francisco & San Mateo Counties, inviting them to participate in the May 14th Job Fair. The Fort Mason event will help veterans find jobs.

VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni reported that it would take funds to repair the Golden Gate Park Forrester's World War I Memorial. We may need a fundraiser to get the money to repair the memorial.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Darryl Toscas, American Legion Post 40 & Chairman of the Veterans Building Trophy Room, reported on his great efforts to improve the viewing of this historic material. He has successfully made the area more colorful & interesting to observe. It is open on Monday & Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. His phone number is 415-776-0600 for more information.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - Comm. Levin asked Comm. Caldera why he did not list his letter to the Mayor about other commissioner's attendance, in the report of his activities in February that he presented to the commission. Comm. Caldera reported that this was old business & that he had brought this up as new business at the April 7, 2007 meeting. That 5 commissioners missed more than 5 meetings in 2007. That the Mayor had sent out a letter on commission attendance in August 2006 & in Oct. 2006 he sent out an additional letter requesting that each commission

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should come up with an attendance policy. That the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 502-06 urging city commissions to come up with an attendance policy. Per the Mayor all absences should be excused absences. That the policy should be for 100% attendance, with practical attendance being at 90% attendance.

Comm. Cauley, Champagne, Buck & Levin conveyed their disapproval of Comm. Caldera's action per commission attendance. They all felt that this matter should be resolved within the commission. Comm. Levin reported that the issue of attendance would be placed on the April agenda for review, evaluation & action. That the commission has been in existence for 25 years & we have never had this kind of a problem. During this time period no commissioner has ever gone to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors or other city departments with commission business. That we have By-Laws that cover the issue of attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs reported that the East Bay Stand Down would be held on Aug. 7, 8, 9 & 10, at the Pleasanton Fair Grounds. (eastbaystanddown.org for more information)

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Gruwell's letter to Local Assets thanking them for helping hospitalized veterans was tabled.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wilson reported on the Governor's Budget Proposal for a reduction of \$260,000 with the California Department of Veterans Affairs for subvention to counties for veterans' claims & outreach services. This will be placed on the April agenda for commission action.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin reported that the Memorial Day Ceremony is basically the same each year & it is just a matter of plugging in units & people into the different parts of the program. One of the main problems is the lack of military units in the Bay Area. The 91st Division & the Presidio Trust are the main supporters of the event. He presented a complete review of how the ceremony is organized.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT - Comm. Levin reported that unfortunately it appears that we will reach the 4,000 killed in Iraq this month. That we should adjourn in memory of the 4,350+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during the month of February, Congressman Tom Lantos, Robert Young (Army Vietnam), PFC Mark Anthony Sheehy (Army Iraq), John Wilkes (Ph.D. Army World War II), Eugene Dawydiak (Navy World War II) & Jim Linberger, Army World War II & Korean War, former commissioner & a truly dedicated veteran.

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin

B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni

C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS - Commission review, evaluation & action on Comm. Caldera's February letter to Mayor Newsom informing him that 5 commissioners had poor attendance during 2007, his February letter to the Controller's Office requesting copies of records pertaining to the Veterans Affairs Commission involving the 139th Memorial Day Ceremony and the 88th Veterans Day Parade, his written request to the commission for a financial report of both the 139th Memorial Day Ceremony and the 88th Veterans Day Parade & commission attendance policy per our By-laws.

Recommend or reject proposed ordinance to change the Veterans Affairs Commission from a 15-member commission to an 11-member commission.

D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs

E. EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, & WELFARE - Comm. Thompson

Commission letters of support to the Mayor & Board of Supervisors, for the Veterans focused Project Homeless Connect Stand Down, on July 23, 2008, at the War Memorial Veterans Building - Comm. Cauley

F. JROTC STUDENT SUPPORT - Comm. Varni

G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong

Commission letters to the Mayor & Board of Supervisors against the Governor's Budget Proposal for a reduction of \$260,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs for subvention to counties for veteran's claims and outreach services.

H. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin

I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Wong & Guglielmoni

Washington D.C. Reports.

J. VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,400+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, homeless veterans that died in S.F. during March.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF April 7, 2008 MEETING

MAY - 2 2008

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

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Commissioner Cauley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, Jill Buck, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong, 14 present. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Dara Wong, Margaret Champagne & Ralph Gibson were also present.

Comm. Cauley moved approval of the March minutes, with a 2nd by Comm. Wilson. When President Levin asked if there were any corrections or additions to the March Minutes, Comm. Caldera reported that his February report on his activities were not listed in the minutes. Comm. Levin stated that in the two decades that the commission has been in existence no other commissioner had ever presented a report of their personal activities & that this was not a commission requirement. That his personal report was not commission business. A motion was made by Comm. Guglielmoni, with a second by Comm. Wong that listing reports of the personal activities of individual commissioners did not have to be recorded in the minutes. The motion passed by a vote of 13 to 1, with Comm. Caldera voting no. Commission minutes of the March meeting were approved. Comm. Buck moved approval of the April agenda, with a 2nd by Comm. Guglielmoni. Motion passed.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS - Comm. Levin reported that we had many items pertaining to Comm. Caldera & that we should start with a report from Comm. Gruwell. He reported that he was given a copy of a Board of Supervisors proposed legislation drafted by the City Attorney pertaining to the Veterans Affairs Commission. The legislation would cut the Commission from 15 members to 11 members, would cut the women members from 3 to 1 & everyone on the Commission would have their terms end on Aug. 1, 2008. Comm. Buck asked how did this legislation come about & who was responsible for it. Comm. Buck & Comm. Wong asked who did this & why was it done without the knowledge of the members of this Commission? Comm. Levin requested that the commissioner or commissioners that gave birth to this legislation identify themselves. Comm.

Caldera reported that he wrote a letter to the Mayor in January informing him of his unhappiness with the way the commission treats the matter of attendance. That he also met with a couple of Supervisors to convey his disapproval of the way the Commission treats the issue of Commissioners attendance. That at the third meeting he attended in April of 2007, he had raised the issue of attendance. That he had met with two members of the Board of Supervisors to complain about this issue & that he got one of the Supervisors to request the City Attorney to draft this legislation. Comm. Cauley reported that this sort of action should have been brought before the commission. Comm. Buck drafted a letter from the Commission to the Board of Supervisors requesting that they reprimand Comm. Caldera & that they remove him from the Commission, because of the actions that he has taken against the Commission. She read the letter & the letter was passed around & was signed by 11

members of the Commission. Comm. Gruwell felt that the Commission should be made larger not made smaller. Comm. Varni voiced his support for the letter drafted by Comm. Buck calling for the Board of Supervisors to remove Comm. Caldera from the Commission & he was against the proposed legislation changing the size of the Commission. Comm. Caldera reported that the Bicycle Commission had a problem having a quorum because that Commission was too large. They solved the problem by making the Commission smaller. That 5 commissioners had poor attendance during 2007. Comm. Cauley conveyed to Comm. Caldera that she was upset with him because he went behind the back of the Commission & if he is so unhappy with the Commission she did not understand how he can sit at the same table with us. That he was working against the Commission & we have never had this kind of a problem prior to him being placed on the Commission. Comm. Guglielmoni asked how many times in the past 15 years have we not had a quorum. Comm. Wilkerson reported that 8 years ago when he was President at one meeting we did not have a quorum. Comm. Buck reported that at least she brought her letter before the Commission & that she did not sneak behind the back of the Commission, before bringing it to the attention of the Board of Supervisors. Comm. Champagne asked Comm. Caldera who appointed him the Attendance Clerk? Comm. Wilson conveyed to Comm. Caldera that he appears to be unhappy with many of the things that we do as a Commission & since he has joined the Commission we have had nothing but disruption. That he is not a team player & that he should resign. Comm. Gruwell conveyed his concern about requesting that a commissioner be removed from the Commission. Comm. Levin requested that Comm. Caldera give the members of the Commission copies of the letters that he sent to the Mayor & the Controller & that he inform the Commission when he met with members of the Board of Supervisors. Comm. Caldera reported that he met with them during the week after our March meeting. Comm. Buck moved that we send a letter to the Board of Supervisors conveying the Commissions concern as to the actions of Comm. Caldera & requesting that he be removed from the Commission. 2nd by Comm. Wilson. The motion passed by a vote of 11 to 3. On the issue of the proposed Board of Supervisor legislation that would cut the Commission from 15 to 11 members, cut 3 women to 1 & end the present Commissioners membership on Aug. 1, 2008. Comm. Gruwell moved the motion against this legislation, with a 2nd by Comm. Buck. The motion passed by a vote of 13 to 1, with Comm. Caldera voting against the motion.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs reported that the veteran focused Project Homeless Connect Stand Down would be held on July 23rd, at the War Memorial Veterans Building. The East Bay Stand Down would be held on Aug. 7, 8, 9 & 10, at the Pleasanton Fair Grounds. (eastbaystanddown.org for more information) Comm. Levin requested that a motion be made to send letters of our support for the July 23rd Project Homeless Connect Event on July 23rd to the Mayor & the Board of Supervisors. Motion by Comm. Gibbs, with a 2nd by Comm. Guglielmoni. Motion passed.

USF ROTC – Comm. Varni reported on the University of San Francisco ROTC Awards Ceremony. Four members of the Commission attended the event & presented awards to the Cadets. Comm. Varni for the Association of the U.S. Army, Comm. Thompson for the Military Order of the Purple Heart & Comm. Champagne & Wong for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. USF has one of the best ROTC programs in the country, with many going into the Army Medical Branch.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wilson reported on the Governor's Budget Proposal for a reduction of \$260,000 from the California Department of Veterans Affairs. This cut would hurt the counties ability for veterans' claims & outreach services. A motion was made Comm. Guglielmoni, with a 2nd by Comm. Thompson, that the Commission is against the Governor's proposed \$260,000 cut in funds to the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget, because it would hinder the ability of the County Veterans Service Offices to service veterans. This information should be passed on to the Mayor & the Board of Supervisors.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin reported that the Memorial Day Ceremony planning is moving along. The 91st Division & the Presidio Trust are the main supporters of the event. He reviewed the groups that are going to participate.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Guglielmoni & Comm. Wong reported on their 4 day March visit & meetings with our elected Federal Officials, during the National Veterans Organizations event in Washington D.C. Both the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) & the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) spoke at Federal Hearings. They are attempting to get 58 billion for veterans. The present G.I. Bill does not presently meet the needs of returning veterans. The needs of women veterans will double during the next 5 years. California veteran's population is now 2,203,727. Which is the largest veterans population in the nation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Comm. Wilkerson had located & donated 4 walkers to the Veterans Administration Hospital for the use of veterans.

Comm. Caldera reported that the 4,000 Lights 4 Life Memorial on March 24th was a success, with the event co-hosted by the Bob Basker Post 315, Veterans For Peace Chapter 69, Alexander Hamilton Post 448, Gold & Blue Star Moms.

Comm. Guglielmoni reported that the Monterey Veterans Rehab Center will bring their boat up to the Bay Area for two weeks. Last year they took 450 veterans out on the Bay & this year they hope to take 1000 out.

Comm. Wong reported that the VFW Loyalty Day Program will take place Sunday, April 27th in the Veterans Building.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT - Comm. Levin reported that unfortunately it appears that we will reach the 4,000 killed in Iraq this month. That we should adjourn in memory of the 4,350+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during the month of February,

Minutes submitted by Wallace Levin - Commission phone 415-554-6036.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. ROLL CALL
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni
 - C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS - Commission By-laws Attendance evaluation.
 - D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs
 - E. EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, & WELFARE - Comm. Thompson
- Commission support for the Veterans focused Project Homeless Connect Stand Down, on July 23, 2008, at the War Memorial Veterans Building - Comm. Cauley
- F. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
- G. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- I. VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni
- 8. OLD BUSINESS
- 9. NEW BUSINESS
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,450+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan & homeless veterans that died in S.F. during April.

MAY 5 2008

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For information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapters 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact:

Frank Darby, Administrator
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
554-7724

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Administrator of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at www.sfgov.org.

DISABILITY ACCESS

The Veterans Building is between Grove and McAllister Streets and is wheelchair accessible. The closest BART and MUNI Metro Station is Civic Center, about three blocks away. Accessible MUNI lines nearest City Hall are: 42 Downtown Loop, 49 Van Ness-Mission and F-Market & MUNI Metro (Civic Center Station).

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF May 5, 2008 MEETING
415-554-6036

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

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President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
Commissioner Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, Jill Buck, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong, 11 present. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Dara Wong, Margaret Champagne & Joe Gibbs. were also present. Additional guests present were World War II Filipino Veterans, Cesar Lagutan, Justino Lauzon, Felix Junia & Refereuo Polad. Commissioners John Caldera, Veronica Cauley & Chris Gruwell were not present & were excused. Comm. Guglielmoni moved approval of the May Agenda, with a 2nd by Comm. Baldonado. Motion passed. Comm. Wong moved approval of the minutes of the April meeting, with a 2nd by Comm. Baldonado. Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Comm. Baldonado introduced 4 World War II Filipino Veterans who came to our meeting to thank us for our support of the Federal Legislation that had just past. Cesar Lagutan, Justino Lauzon, Felix Junia & Refereuo Polad conveyed their appreciation to the Commission for our support.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS - Comm. Levin reported that the letter to Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, requesting that the Board remove John Caldera from the Commission had been sent to the Board.

City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass presented his proposed Bylaws replacement provision concerning attendance. His proposal would be in line what the Mayor & the Board has requested of city commissions. The proposal would be placed on the June agenda for discussion & action.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Comm. Varni reported that there is a new American Legion Post 911, which is made up of Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans. That we should start planning for the Veterans Building 2011 retrofit departure from the building & that we should bring the Golden Gate Park World War I Memorial into the Veterans Building's future plans.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs reported that the veteran focused Project Homeless Connect Event would be held on July 23rd, at the War Memorial Veterans Building. The East Bay Stand Down would be held on Aug. 7, 8, 9 & 10, at the Pleasanton Fair Grounds.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson reported that the Job Fair would be held on May 14th, at Fort Mason. That about 900 people should attend the event and that it is a very important source of jobs for veterans.

Comm. Wilkerson reported that the money that is made from the Job Fair is used to buy clothing & other aid for homeless veterans.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong reported on legislation now before the State Assembly and Senate for the evaluation of the Commission. Comm. Guglielmoni reported on AB2568, a bill that would give 100% property tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Comm. Caldera arrived & read his letter to Board President Aaron Peskin, in answer to the Commissions letter requesting that he be removed from the Commission. This matter is now in the hands of the Supervisors.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Champagne reported on the VFW Loyalty Day Event held at the Veterans Building. They honored the San Francisco & Daly City Police Departments, Fire Departments & Paramedics. Chief of Police Heather Fong, Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White & Chief McBride attended. Comm. Guglielmoni reported on the DAV & Monterey Bay Veteran's Rehab Center's recent fishing boat outing for 500 disabled veterans.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,400+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan and the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco during the month of April.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin

B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni

C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS – Discussion of and possible action on motion to approve Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass's proposed Bylaws replacement provision concerning attendance.

D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs

E. EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, & WELFARE - Comm. Thompson

Commission support for the Veterans focused Project Homeless Connect Stand Down, on July 23, 2008, at the War Memorial Veterans Building - Comm. Cauley

F. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong – Discussion of and possible action on motion to support the New GI Bill, H.R. 6081, 5554, 5856, 3819, 5729 and 5826.

G. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - Comm. Levin

H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Discussion of and possible action on motion to support the Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation effort to construct a memorial to honor all of our Nation's disabled veterans.

I. VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Discussion of and possible action on motion not to meet in July for our traditional recess. Commissioners are urged to take part in the Homeless Connect Stand Down Event on July 23rd, at the Veterans Building.

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,450+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan & the homeless veterans that died in S.F. during May.

MAY 3, 2008

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Current provision of VAC bylaws concerning attendance:

"Any member who is absent from three consecutive meetings[s] and who does not notify the Chair or Secretary prior to the third absence shall abdicate his/her seat. The Mayor or Board of Supervisors, as appropriate, shall be notified of the vacancy."

(February 8, 1993 Bylaws, Article III, Section 5)

Proposed replacement provision:

- "(a) Except in the event of a notified absence (defined below), each member of the Veterans Affairs Commission is expected to attend and be present for all of each regular or special meeting of the Commission. The Secretary of the Commission shall maintain a record of members' attendance, and shall record as non-notified all absences that do not constitute 'notified absences' under the following paragraph.
- "(b) A member's absence shall constitute a 'notified absence' where the member, in advance of the meeting, informs the Secretary or President of the Commission that the member will be absent, or where the member's absence is due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness or emergency and the member reports such unforeseen circumstances to the Secretary or President of the Commission as soon as reasonably possible.
- "(c) The Secretary of the Commission shall report all non-notified absences from regular Commission meetings, and also shall report any instance in which a member of the Commission is absent (notified or otherwise) from three consecutive regular Commission meetings, to the Board of Supervisors or Mayor's Office, depending on whether the member in question was appointed to the Commission by the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor.
- "(d) At the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary of the Commission shall submit a written report to both the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office detailing each Commission member's attendance at all meetings of the Commission held during that year."



Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation

6290 Linton Blvd., Suite 104

Delray Beach, FL 33484-6409

Victor Biggs, Executive Director Office: (703) 310-3999 or (800) 351-7590 ext. 206

The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation (DVLMF) was established in 1998 through the combined efforts of Lois Pope, renowned philanthropist and DVLMF Chairman; Mr. Arthur Wilson, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans and DVLMF President; and the late Jesse Brown, former Secretary of Veteran Affairs and DVLMF's first Executive Director.

Mission

DVLMF was created as a 501(c)(3) non-profit with the sole purpose of designing and constructing a memorial to honor all of our Nation's disabled veterans, including the more than three million disabled veterans living in America today.

History

- Legislation creating DVLMF was signed into law by President Clinton in 2000
- Legislation stipulates no federal funds can be used for the construction of the Memorial
- Memorial will be cared for in perpetuity by the National Park Service
- Sixteen of the twenty-four steps to building a national memorial have been completed
- Commission of Fine Arts and National Capital Planning Commission approved initial memorial design concept; final design approval scheduled for fall of 2008
- A commanding two-acre site 1,000 feet from the U.S. Capitol has been secured and approved by President George W. Bush
- DVLMF anticipates ground-breaking by 2009 and dedication fall of 2010
- All funds must be committed prior to ground-breaking

Current Budget & Funding Sources

- The campaign goal is \$86 million and DVLMF has secured more than \$70 million
- Broad-based support has educated and allowed Americans, specifically the veteran population, to participate in this national and historic project
- DVLMF has a comprehensive fundraising plan including outreach to leading individuals, corporations and foundations to reach its goal and dedicate the Memorial.
- Revenue sources that DVLMF has secured and is currently pursuing include:
 - Direct Mail has secured 1,000,000+ donors and anticipates more than \$10 million net revenue over the life of the campaign
 - State Grants program offering each State an opportunity to participate; the State of Maryland was first with a \$500,000 grant followed by Iowa with a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the memorial (\$50,000 received)
 - Commemorative Coin legislation is expected to provide net revenue of \$3,500,000
 - Grassroots fundraising campaigns are taking place nationwide and include school groups as well as a national Cell Phone Recycling Program
 - Events will benefit DVLMF in targeted communities including Palm Beach, Washington, D C., and other key locations.

Putting Troops and Veterans First

The 110th Congress is taking America in a New Direction, putting our troops and veterans first. We are fighting for a landmark plan to establish a 21st Century GI Education bill and a pay raise for our troops that exceeds the President's request. This builds on our progress of enacting the largest veterans' health care funding increase in the history of the Veterans' Administration last year.

Today, the House is building on that record of accomplishment for our veterans, taking up the HEART ACT, H.R. 6081, to make permanent essential tax relief for our military families, including tax relief under the Earned Income Tax Credit, provide incentives to make sure that reservists called up for active duty do not suffer a pay cut, clarify the availability of recovery rebates for military families, and expand homeownership opportunities for veterans.

Similar to the earlier House-passed bill, which passed 410-0, the HEART Act's \$1.3 billion in tax relief for military families is a modest response to the extended military deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan that have created significant economic hardships for many of our military families. This measure represents the final agreement with the Senate that may be sent to the President by Memorial Day.

Today, the House will also consider a legislative package of bills to address the health care needs of veterans, authorize major medical facility construction projects, and provide a cost-of-living adjustment for service-connected disability compensation rates for veterans, among others.

Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act - H.R. 6081

- **Make tax relief for families of soldiers in combat under the EITC permanent.** The bill makes permanent current law to include combat pay as earned income for purposes of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). At the end of the year, soldiers' families working to get into the middle class will be denied needed tax relief if combat pay is not counted for purposes of receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- **Make sure that reservists called up for active duty do not suffer a pay cut.** Provides a tax credit of up to \$4,000 for small businesses who continue to pay their National Guard and Reserve employees when they are called up to serve. According to a DOD survey, 55 percent of married Guard members and reservists suffer a loss of income when being called to active duty.
- **Recovery rebates for military families.** The bill clarifies that a military service member on active duty who files a joint return is eligible for a recovery rebate, even if their spouse does not have a Social Security number.
- **Make it easier for veterans to become homeowners.** The bill would make thousands of veterans eligible for low-interest loans by making changes to the qualified mortgage bond programs used to help veterans achieve homeownership.
- **Make permanent other tax provisions to relieve economic hardships**

Veterans Substance Abuse Treatment - H.R. 5554

To expand and improve health care services available to veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs for substance use disorders -- requiring the VA to provide the full continuum of care for substance use disorders at every VA medical center. Of the approximately 300,000 veterans from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom who have accessed VA health care, nearly 50,000 have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder.

VA Medical Construction - H.R. 5856

To authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2009.

Veterans Emergency Care Reimbursement - H.R. 3819

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

Spina Bifida Care for Vietnam Veterans Children - H.R. 5729

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive health care to children of Vietnam veterans born with Spina Bifida.

Veterans Cost of Living Increase - H.R. 5826

Provides a cost of living increase for veterans' disability benefits and to dependency and indemnity compensation for veterans' families, effective December 1, 2008. The cost-of-living increase is based on the cost-of-living adjustment made annually for Social Security payments.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2008 MEETING
415-554-6036

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President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

In honor of Asian Heritage Month Commissioners Regalado Baldonado & Raymond Wong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, Cris Gruwell, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson & Raymond Wong. 10 present & 4 not present.

Commissioners Jill Buck, George Gibbs, Jim Guglielmoni & Robert Varni were excused. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Margaret Champagne, John Getzow, Bill Stephens & Merylin Wong were also present. Comm. Wilson moved approval of the June Agenda, with a 2nd by Comm. Thompson. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Bill Stephens Director of the USS IOWA Committee presented the latest information on the 13-year effort to bring the USS IOWA to the Bay Area. The present plan is to bring the ship to Vallejo. They could receive the ship from the Navy in 2010 or 2011. They are now in the critical planning & fund raising stage of the project.

COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS – Commission support of City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass's proposed Bylaws replacement provisions concerning attendance. The proposal would be in line with what the Mayor & the Board has requested of all city commissions. This proposal would replace our present Attendance Bylaw, Article III, Section 5. Motion by Comm. Cauley, with a 2nd by Comm. Baldonado. Motion passed unanimously 10 to 0.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION – Commission support for the new GI Bill, Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act - H.R. 6081, Veterans Substance Abuse Treatment - H.R. 5554, VA Medical Construction - H.R. 5856, Veterans Emergency Care Reimbursement - H.R. 3819, Spina Bifida Care for Vietnam Veterans Children - H.R. 5729 & Veterans Cost of Living Increase - H.R. 5826. Motion to support this Federal Legislation by Comm. Wong, with a 2nd by Comm. Champagne. Motion passed unanimously 10-0.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Commission support for the Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation's effort to construct a memorial in Washington D.C., to honor all of our Nation's disabled veterans. Motion to support this effort by Comm. Caldera, 2nd by Comm. Champagne. Motion passed unanimously 10-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Commission support to not meet in July for our traditional recess. Motion by Comm. Cauley, with a 2nd by Comm. Thompson. Motion passed.

HEALTH & WELFARE – Comm. Cauley reported on the plans for the Veterans focused Project Homeless Connect Event, on July 23rd, at the War Memorial Veterans Building. This will be the first Homeless Connect program for veterans & the first such event ever held at the Veterans Building. Comm. Cauley has volunteered at many of these events & has helped over a thousand veterans.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT – Comm. Thompson reported on the May 17th, Veterans Job Fair, at Fort Mason. Comm. Wilkerson & Comm. Wong also attended the event. Comm. Thompson who works at EDD & Comm. Wilkerson who worked at EDD, have found jobs for thousands of veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY – Comm. Levin thanked Commissioners Baldonado, Buck, Caldera, Gibbs, Gruwell, Guglielmoni, Thompson, Varni, Wilson & Wong for attending and taking part in the Ceremony. This year we paid special tribute to the 90th Anniversary of World War I, African American Buffalo Soldiers & those Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. The first 4 Cannon salute was conducted in honor of the Buffalo Soldiers. Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Senator Leland Yee, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, City Treasurer Jose Cisneros, Supervisors Carmen Chu, Sean Elsbernd, Ross Mirkarimi, Police Chief Heather Fong and Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White all attended the Ceremony.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Wong reported that he & Comm. Champagne recently presented VFW medals to Univ. of S.F. ROTC Cadets. The VFW is also working with the Navy Sea Cadets Color Guard, who participated in three Memorial Day Events.

Comm. Caldera reported that the American Legion Cathy Post & Swords to Plowshares conducted Memorial Events to honor veterans.

Comm. Baldonado thanked the Commission for our support to Filipino Veterans. Comm. Champagne reported that at a May 30 Post Office Ceremony, he presented a Special VFW Citation to Philip Choy in honor of his 38 years of military service.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,450+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and those veterans that died of suicide during the month of May. The Commission also honored Ethel Preston Richardson, 92, one of the first African American woman to serve in the Army during World War II. Pedro Manalo Javier, 79, 28 year Navy veteran who served in World War II, Korea & Vietnam John Wilkes, 92, World War II Army Chemist who received a Bronze Star. Michael Salome, World War II POW.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, AUG 4, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

07-28-08RD15EB REV0

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni
 - C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS – Review, discussion of & possible action on motion pertaining to Commissioners attendance during 2007 & 2008.
 - D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs
 - E. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson
 - F. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley
 - G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
 - H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS
 - I. VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni
 - J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin
- Review of Commissions support for the Veterans focused Project Homeless Connect Event on July 23, 2008, at the War Memorial Veterans Building
- Review, discussion of & possible action on motion pertaining to items on the War Memorial Trustees agenda. Proposal from S.F. Opera for the addition of an annex to Veterans Building & the expansion of Herbst Theatre backstage & support spaces. Report of Auerbach, Pollock, Friedlander: First concepts for comment on potential new performance space in the Veterans Building. Request from Museum of Performance & Design to install a banner in the archway leading to the south elevator in the Veterans Building main lobby, to identify & direct the public to the Museum.
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,500+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during June and July.

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SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION (554-6036)
MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2008 MEETING

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. & led the Pledge. Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Cris Gruwell, Jim Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Bud Wilson, Dara Wong & Raymond Wong. 13 present & 2 not present. Excused Comm. Jill Buck & Edwin Wilkerson. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass & Margaret Champagne were also present. Comm. Caldera moved approval of the Aug. Agenda, 2nd by Comm. Baldonado. Motion passed. Comm. Guglielmoni moved approval of the minutes of the May meeting, 2nd by Comm. Raymond Wong. Motion passed. Comm. Cauley moved approval of minutes of the June meeting, 2nd by Comm. Dara Wong. Motion passed.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – Comm. Levin reported on the Commissioners

Attendance report for 2007 & 2008. The report will be sent to Mayor & the Board. He welcomed our new Commissioner Dara Wong, who will be an asset to the team.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING – Comm. Levin reported on 3 War Memorial Trustees cancelled July agenda items The items were to expand the Herbst Theatre stage, additional performance space & allowing a museum to place a banner in building lobby. Veterans should also be able to put up banners in lobby.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT – Comm. Varni reported that he is working on a plan to bring the Golden Gate Park Forrester's World War I Memorial to the Veterans Building War Memorial Court, after the retrofit project is completed.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – Comm. Gibbs reported that the East Bay Stand Down for homeless veterans would be held on Aug. 7, 8, 9 & 10, at the Alameda Fair Grounds. Hundreds of Bay Area veterans are given aid & support.

Comm. Wong reported the Veterans of Foreign Wars donated \$1,000 to the event.

Comm. Buck is collecting support items from the Pleasanton area for the veterans.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT – Comm. Thompson reported on Aug. 21st, Veterans Employment Committee will meet to start planning for the 2009 20th Job Fair.

HEALTH & WELFARE – Comm. Cauley reported on the very successful Veterans focused Project Homeless Connect Event, on July 23, at the War Memorial Veterans Building. This was the first such program just for veterans & the first such event ever held at the Veterans Building. Comm. Cauley has volunteered at many of these events & was commended for her effort. Comm. Caldera reported that American Legion Post 315 collected hundreds of socks, which were given to the veterans.

Comm. Buck collected a vanload of items that were donated to the event.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Comm. Guglielmoni reported that the DAV presented an award to Willie Mays at the Giants Military Appreciation Night on July 2. Comm. Raymond Wong reported that he & Comm. Dara Wong attended the Aug. 4, Alameda Commissioning of the Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf. Comm.

Baldonado thanked the Commission for our continued needed support to Filipino Veterans Federal Legislation. He was elected American Legion Post 1 Commander.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,600+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and those veterans that died of suicide during the month of June & July.

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City and County of San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission Members Attendance Record

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Regalado Baldonado	X	X	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	8 P 0 A
Jill Buck	P	P	A	A	A	P	A	A	A	A	A	3 P 8 A
John Caldera	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	10 P 0 A
Veronika Cauley	P	A	P	P	P	A	A	P	A	A	A	5 P 6 A
Renie Champagne	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	9 P 2 A
Cheryl Cook	A	P	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	P	P	5 P 6 A
George Gibbs	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	8 P 3 A
Chris Gruwell	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	A	6 P 5 A
Jim Guglielmoni	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	9 P 2 A
Wallace Levin	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	10 P 1 A
Michael Thompson	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	10 P 1 A
Robert Varni	X	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	9 P 1 A
Edwin Wilkerson	P	A	A	P	A	A	A	P	P	P	P	6 P 5 A
Bud Wilson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	11 P 0 A
Raymond Wong	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	10 P 1 A
Present	11	13	10	11	10	9	11	12	10	12	12	
Absent	1	2	5	4	5	6	4	3	5	3	3	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Regalado Baldonado	P	P	E	P	P	P	P					P — A
Jill Buck	P	E	P	P	P	E	E					P — A
John Caldera	P	P	P	P	E	P	P					P — A
Veronika Cauley	A	P	P	P	E	P	P					P — A
Renie Champagne	E	P	P	P	P	P	P					P — A
Dara Wong	X	X	X	X	X	X	P					P — A
George Gibbs	P	E	P	P	P	E	P					P — A
Chris Gruwell	P	A	A	P	E	P	P					P — A
Jim Guglielmoni	P	E	E	P	P	E	P					P — A
Wallace Levin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					P — A
Michael Thompson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					P — A
Robert Varni	P	P	P	P	P	E	P					P — A
Edwin Wilkerson	P	P	P	P	P	P	E					P — A
Bud Wilson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					P — A
Raymond Wong	P	P	E	P	P	P	P					P — A
Present (P)	12	10	10	14	11	10	13					
Absent (A)	1	1	1	0	0	0	0					
Excused (E)	1	3	3	0	3	4	2					

P = Present A = Absent X = Not On Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEP 8, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

08-26-08A1115P RVOJ

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

AUG 26 2008

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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7. REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin

B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni

C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -

D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs

E. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson

F. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley

G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong

H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

I. VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni

J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,650+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during August.

BECAUSE LABOR DAY FALLS ON THE FIRST MONDAY, THE
COMMISSION WILL MEET ON THE 2ND MONDAY, SEPT. 8TH

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

WE NOW HAVE 15 MEMBERS ON BOARD,

EACH ONE OF YOU IS 1/15 PARTNER OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

WE SHOULD ALL WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION AND THE
COMPLETION OF OUR MISSION, WHICH IS TO ACT IN THE BEST
INTEREST OF VETERANS. WE SHOULD ALSO MAKE A BETTER EFFORT
TO WORK AS A TEAM. I AM COMMITTED TO THAT CONCEPT.

President Wallace Levin

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapters 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact:

Frank Darby, Administrator
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
554-7724

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DISABILITY ACCESS

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SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION (554-6036)
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 MEETING

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Newly appointed Commissioner Dara Wong led the Pledge.

A Roll Call discussion was held on the importance of commission team work. Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Jim Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson, Edwin Wilkerson, Dara Wong & Raymond Wong. 12 present & 3 not present. Excused Comm. Jill Buck, Cris Gruwell & Robert Varni. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Margaret Champagne, Michael Gerold & Carita Ronin were also present. Comm. Cauley moved approval of Sept. Agenda, 2nd by Comm. Guglielmoni. Motion passed. Comm. Champagne moved approval of the August minutes, 2nd by Comm. Cauley. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - USF ROTC graduate, present ROTC instructor, Afghanistan War Veteran, American Legion Post 911 Founder & District 8 Commander Michael Gerard reported on what his new post & District 8 plan to do to help veterans & the American Legion.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - Comm. Levin reported on the American Legion War Memorial Commission & the War Memorial Veterans Building. That V.P. Varni was in Washington D.C. & that this week he will be appointed Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Northern California.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs reported that the August East Bay Stand Down for homeless veterans was a success, with hundreds of Bay Area veterans given aid & support.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson reported that Swords to Plowshares would conduct a Job Fair in the Veterans Building on Sept. 9th. California EDD Office at 801 Turk St. is where Comm. Thompson & Comm. Wilkerson have found 1000's of jobs for veterans during the past two decades.

HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley reported that Project Homeless Connect would conduct a Homeless Connect Event this week in the Hunters Point Area. Former Commissioner Ralph Gipson is now at Fort Miley.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Raymond Wong reported on recently passed legislation, including the new G.I. Bill.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Guglielmoni reported that the DAV funded Monterey Bay Sports Rehab Center held their annual Rock Cod Derby for 320 Disabled Veterans. Comm. Dara Wong reported that VFW District 14 sponsored a deployment party for the 1-164 Battalion. They are now in Iraq. Comm. Caldera reported that American Legion Post 315 would have their Awards Night at the Veterans Building on Sept. 23. Comm. Baldonado reported that the Filipino Veterans Federal Legislation was now before Congress.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,700+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and those veterans that died of suicide during the month of August.

And Anthony Joseph Lane, 85, Navy, USS Helena, World War II. Alexander Stewart Blanc, 85, Army Air Corp C-47 Flight Engineer, World War II. Joseph Barbaria, 87, Navy, World War II. Gary Warren Zelles, M.D., 73 Navy, Vietnam.

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

RESOLUTION
Required Seismic Retrofit Exodus from Veterans Building
February 19, 2008
San Francisco
American Legion War Memorial Commission

WHEREAS, the American Legion War Memorial Commission, made up of representatives of the Posts of the San Francisco American Legion, passed this Resolution at their regular meeting held on February 19, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the War Memorial Trustees have passed a resolution authorizing the seismic retrofit of the War Memorial Veterans Building, which will require the Posts of the American Legion and other patriotic organizations to vacate the Veterans Building for a period of three years or more; and

WHEREAS, the Posts of the American Legion and other patriotic organizations do not have the financial or logistical resources to move their historical and organizational possessions from and then back to the Veterans Building; and

WHEREAS, the Posts of the American Legion and other patriotic organizations do not have a place to store their historical and organizational possessions; and

WHEREAS, the Posts of the American Legion and other patriotic organizations will not have a location to hold their meetings or offices to conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, this action by the War Memorial Trustees will be a form of eviction on the Posts of the American Legion and other patriotic organizations; and

WHEREAS, this action by the War Memorial Trustees has placed an impossible requirement on the Posts of the American Legion and other patriotic organizations now using the Veterans Building; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Legion War Memorial Commission, a beneficiary of the 1921 Trust Agreement, are forced to remind the War Memorial Trustees of their obligation to veterans and we believe the Trustees are obligated to provide the financial and logistical support to move the Posts of the American Legion and other patriotic organizations out of and return to the War Memorial Veterans Building prior to and after seismic retrofit. Provide a place for the Posts of the American Legion and other patriotic organizations to store their historical and organizational property. Provide meeting and office space for the veterans to use during the seismic retrofit.

American Legion War Memorial Commission DOCUMENTS DEPT
LeRue Grim, Chairman

SEP 30 2008

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, OCT. 6, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS

Discussion of and possible action on Commissioner John Caldera vs Veterans Affairs Commission Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Complaint.
All Commissioners are requested to appear and testify at the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Complaint hearings Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 4:00 P.M., City Hall, Room 406 and Tuesday, October 28, 2008, 4:00 P.M., City Hall, Room 408.

 - A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni
 - C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -
 - D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Comm. Gibbs
 - E. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson
 - F. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley
 - G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
 - H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
 - I. VETERANS MEMORIALS - Comm. Varni
 - J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,700+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during September.

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

SEP 30 2008

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Frank Darby, Administrator
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554-7724

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2008 MEETING
415-554-6036

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. & led the Pledge.
Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, Jill Buck, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Cris Gruwell, Jim Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Bud Wilson, Dara Wong & Raymond Wong. 13 present & 2 not present.
Excused Comm. Edwin Wilkerson & Robert Varni. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Margaret Champagne, Michael Gerold, Yon-Teo Seeger & Erin Henke were also present.

Comm. Cauley moved approval of Oct. Agenda, 2nd by Comm. Guglielmoni. Motion passed. Comm. Champagne moved approval of the Sept. minutes, 2nd by Comm. Buck. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Comm. Cauley introduced Erin Henke, Director of Communications for Hospice by the Bay. They care for Patients & Families in Marin, San Francisco & Sonoma Counties. They care for about 315 patients daily. They work with the VA Medical Center, mainly helping veterans at home. It is the 2nd oldest Hospice in the country & the first one on the West Coast. 85% of their patients are on Medicare. They provide compassionate service to those living with serious illness & have six months or less to live. When families are facing serious illness they guide the patient & their loved ones through the entire end-of-life experience.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – Comm. Levin reported that Comm. Caldera's Sunshine Ordinance Task Force complaint against the Veterans Affairs Commission would come before the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force on Oct. 14, 2008. That he would attend with Comm. Varni and that it was not necessary for other commissioners to attend.

COMMISSION GOAL AND PLANS - Comm. Buck reported on the need to continue our support to programs like the Homeless Connect event held in the Veterans Building. Comm. Caldera reported that only a few members of the commissions attended the event. That if we are going to support these things, let's just support them more than just a rubber stamp, but let's support it by action. Comm. Gruwell reported that he was a bit offended by his comments. That he has been on the Board of Homeless Connect. That he has been working on that harder than & longer than he has. That he keeps making these general comments about what commissioners do with their time. Always starting with the assumption that they are doing nothing. The reality is that it is not the commissioners responsibility to report to him.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT – Comm. Thompson reported that the Veterans Employment Committee would hold the 19th Annual Job Fair, on May 13, 2009.

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HEALTH & WELFARE – Comm. Cauley & Thompson reported on the condition of former Commissioner Ralph Gipson, who is now recovering at Fort Miley VA Hospital.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Raymond Wong reported on recently passed State legislation, that included a resolution for a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Week, starting Dec. 10. Comm. Gibbs reported on his concern for veterans that do not have an honorable discharge & are not considered to be a veteran by the Veterans Administration.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Comm. Raymond Wong reported that on Oct. 25th, VFW District 14 would have a picnic for the veterans at the Livermore VA Hospital. Comm. Caldera reported that on Sept. 23rd, American Legion Post 315 held their Awards Ceremony at the Veterans Building.

Comm. Guglielmoni reported that he spent 7 days working with the DAV funded Monterey Bay Sports Rehab Centers Day of Fishing on the Bay, for 150 veterans.

Comm. Buck reported on a new veterans group called Vets For Freedom.

Comm. Levin reported that the Navy is looking for veterans that served at the Concord Arms Depot. It is part of the Navy's effort to clean up the site prior to civilian use.

Comm. Champagne reported that the Veterans Day Parade will be held on Sunday, Nov. 9th, starting at 11:00 a.m. The parade will start at 2nd & Market to City Hall.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,700+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and those veterans that died of suicide during the month of September.

Ezequiel Urrutia, 86, World War II, Army Air Corp, 38 B-24 missions, Purple Heart.

Lydia Mead, 54, Vietnam era, Army, retired Master Sergeant.

Frank Winston, 74, Vietnam era, Air Force, Judge Advocate

Wayne Willis, 89, World War II, Army, Battle of the Bulge, POW.

Arthur Ottolini, 86, World War II, Army.

Richard Durban, 66, Navy, Vietnam era, Aviation Electronics.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, NOV. 3, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

10-224-18A1125-RCVU

MEETING AGENDA

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

OCT 22 2008

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Board of Supervisors 7 to 3 vote appointing Wallace Levin to a new term on the
Veterans Affairs Commission, ending January 31, 2012 Victory Celebration.

7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Discussion of and possible action on Commissioner John Caldera vs Veterans
Affairs Commission Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Complaint Hearing on Oct. 14.
Selection of a Nomination Committee for 2009 Officers.

- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
- B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -
- D. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson
- E. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley
- F. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- I. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin

8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,700+ Americans
killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the
veterans that died because of suicide during the month of October.

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Meeting Information

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2008 MEETING
415-554-6036

GOVERNMENT
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JAN 15 2010

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President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. & led the Pledge.
Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Jim Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Bud Wilson, Dara Wong & Raymond Wong. 13 present & 2 not present. Excused Comm. Jill Buck & Cris Gruwell. Margaret Champagne was present.
Comm. Guglielmoni moved approval of Agenda, 2nd by Comm. Cauley. Motion passed.

VICTORY CELEBRATION – Comm. Levin thanked those on the Commission that supported his yearlong effort to retain his seat 3 on the Commission. That this support helped him turn a June Board of Supervisors 6 to 4 defeat, into an Oct. 7 to 3 victory.
That it was a tough year, but a good learning experience. Comm. Levin, Wilson, Raymond & Dara Wong provided the cake, coffee, soft drinks & other supplies.

SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE COMPLAINT HEARING – Comm. Levin reported on the Comm. John Caldera vs Veterans Affairs Commission Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Task Force Hearing held on Oct. 14, 2008. Comm. Caldera, Levin & Varni spoke at the hearing. Comm. Raymond Wong & Dara Wong were also present. After hearing both sides of the issue the Task Force members moved to take no action & to not move this matter to the full main Task Force. Complete information on this meeting can be reviewed on the San Francisco City Website, under Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

HEALTH & WELFARE – Comm. Cauley reported that former Commissioner Ralph Gipson is still at Fort Miley VA Hospital & that she had sent him a get well card from the Commission. Comm. Wilkerson visits Gipson every week & he is doing better.

OFFICER NOMINATION COMMITTEE – An Officer Nomination Committee, made up of four past Commission Presidents was appointed by the Commission. The members are Comm. Wilson, Gibbs, Thompson & Wilkerson.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Comm. Varni reported that as an Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Northern California, he made another trip to Washington D.C. in Oct., to meet with the Secretary of the Army. He has visited VA Hospitals and he was impressed with the great morale of the wounded soldiers. He wants to develop a Commission program to help returning veterans & he plans on working with other members of the Commission to develop this plan.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT – Comm. Thompson reported that he had retired from the California Employment Development Department after 42 years of service. During that time he has helped thousands of veterans find employment & thus lead a better life.

Comm. Wilkerson reported that one thing the government can do to help veterans, is to start up the Veterans Rehabilitation Program, that Comm. Thompson help start.

HOMELESS VETERANS – Comm. Gibbs reported that he is continuing his efforts to gathering clothing for Homeless Veterans & at present he has plenty of items on hand.

LEGISLATIONS EVALUATION - Comm. Dara Wong reported that she attended the VFW Western Conference in San Diego. Chairman Bob Filner attended the event & he is a great supporter of veterans

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Comm. Raymond Wong reported that on Oct. 26th, the VFW District 14 held a picnic for the veterans at the Livermore VA Hospital. Comm.

Dara Wong & Comm. Buck also attended the event.
Comm. Caldera reported that on Oct. 30, American Legion Post 315 & Veterans For Peace held an Event in honor of a group of visiting Vietnam civilians, who had been impacted by Agent Orange, during the Vietnam War.
Comm. Guglielmoni reported that the DAV was holding an event called Harleys Heroes in Eureka. The program holds events at Harley Dealerships, where veterans receive help.

NEW BUSINESS – Comm. Wilkerson reported that the VA is starting program for the wives of PTSD veterans. This will be a very important program that will help veterans & their families.

OLD BUSINESS – Comm. Champagne reported that there will be 115 units in the Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 9, including almost all of the JROTC units.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,700+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and those veterans that died of suicide during the month of October.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, DEC. 1, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Report of the Nomination Committee and open nominations for the 2009
Commission President, Vice President and Secretary – Comm. Wilson

Discussion of and possible action to support the Arlington Wreath Project,
Wreaths Across America – Comm. Raymond Wong

- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
- B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -
- D. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson
- E. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley
- F. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- I. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin

8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,700+ Americans killed in
Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that
died because of suicide during the month of November.

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Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapters 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact:

Frank Darby, Administrator
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
554-7724

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Administrator of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at www.sfgov.org.

DISABILITY ACCESS

The Veterans Building is between Grove and McAllister Streets and is wheelchair accessible. The closest BART and MUNI Metro Station is Civic Center, about three blocks away. Accessible MUNI lines nearest City Hall are: 42 Downtown Loop, 49 Van Ness-Mission and F-Market & MUNI Metro (Civic Center Station).

For more information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 923-6142. There is accessible parking available in the vicinity of City Hall.

For assistance with special needs (large print agendas, sign language interpreters, etc.), call Jill Lerner at 554-6075.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that others may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals.

LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance (Administrative Code Section 16.520-534) to register and report lobbying activity.

For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, contact the Ethics Commission at 1390 Market Street, Suite 701, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 554-9510, FAX (415) 703-1021, or visit its website at <http://www.sfgov.org/ethics>.

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of December 1st, 2008 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05PM, a quorum being present, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Refreshments provided by Commissioner Wilkerson, celebrating his disabled veteran monetary claim.

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni	x		
Elbert "Bud" Wilson	x		
Regalado Baldonado	x		
Jill Buck			x
John Caldera	x		
Veronica Cauley	x		
Renie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs	x		
Chris Gruwell	x		
James Guglielmoni	x		
Michael Thompson	x		
Edwin Wilkerson	x		
Raymond Wong	x		
Dara Wong	x		
Wayne Snodgrass	x		
Margaret Champagne	x		

Fourteen (14) commissioners present, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum.

Acceptance for approval of December 1st, 2008 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Cauley, 2nd by Commissioner Champagne. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of the October 6th, 2008 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Cauley, 2nd by Commissioner Baldonado. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of the November 3rd, 2008 minutes, to be corrected before posting on website: motion by Commissioner Cauley, 2nd by Commissioner Dara Wong, with Commissioner Chris Gruwell abstention.

The following committee reports were submitted:

PAST COMMISSIONER Ralph Gibson hospital visitation - veteran in distress, hospitalized at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, building 208 – Commissioner(s) Wong visited on November 10th, 2008, veteran Hermana Grant also greeted him. Commissioner(s) Gibbs- Thompson - Wilkerson also goes to visit.

NOMINATIONS for 2009 OFFICERS

1st read of nominations were held:

Commissioner Wilson presented the nominating committee of four (4) members recommendations:

Wallace Levin – President
Robert Varni – Vice President
Dara Wong - Secretary

Commissioner Cauley nominated herself for the office of President. No additional nominations for Vice President and Secretary, at this time. President Levin will reopen nominations at the January 5th, 2009 meeting, followed by election of officers.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – forwarded e-mail from Leo McArdle, followed-up by Commissioner(s) Wong, hope everyone can attend, which honors our nation's fallen armed forces members, and those still serving our country, by the laying of wreaths upon headstones

Wreaths Across America <http://www.wreaths-across-america.org> ceremony sponsored by the City & County of San Francisco Police Department & Fire Department, color guard detail, mounted police
San Francisco National Cemetery, Presidio

**GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS DEPT**

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of December 1st, 2008 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

Saturday, December 13th, 2008 8:30AM – 9:45AM

<http://www.wreaths-across-america.org/video.html> December 14th, 2006 YouTube footage

President Levin asked for a motion supporting Wreaths Across America. Motion by Commissioner Wilson, 2nd by Commissioner Dara Wong. Motion passed.

HEALTH & WELFARE

Commissioner Cauley announced that volunteers will be needed at the
Project Homeless Connect 25
Bill Graham Civic Auditorium
December 3rd, 2008

Commissioner Cauley was present, at hospice (palliative care) of a U.S. Army World War II veteran, who suffered a "good" death, among family members present.

Commissioner Cauley mentioned her likeness was used in an AIDS/suicide prevention poster posted in MUNI bus shelter.

Commissioner Varni discussed (1) traumatic brain injury (TBI) among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, an ongoing project of outreach to pursue; (2) relocate the World War I memorial in the Golden Gate Park, to War Memorial honor court oval. Commissioner Varni said, 20% TBI patients coming back from Iraq, U.S. Army leaving TBI problems to the Department of Veterans Affairs, everyone he spoke to, wants to help, largely understands need for medical intervention.

HOMELESS VETERANS

Commissioner Gibbs announced the following facilities <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/region.asp?ID=21>, are still accepting clothing donations.

SFVAMC Downtown Clinic
401-3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94107-1214

Commissioner(s) Gibbs and Wilkerson continually delivered donated clothing/items.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson announced December 10th, 2008 planning meeting at the SVAMC Downtown Clinic, flyers sent to employers, event will be held on

May 13th, 2009 10:00AM thru 2:00PM
18th annual San Francisco Job Fair
Fort Mason Conference Center

LEGISLATION EVALUATION

JROTC proposition V was passed 52% pro versus 48% against, advisory measure. SFUSD Norman Yee voted to take away PE credit. Insufficient number of SFUSD board members to overcome impact to students.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

Commissioner Guglielmoni mentioned he was (1) appointed one of the 2008-2009 DAV National Deputy Chief of Staff; (2) recently employed at Olivet Memorial Park, Colma, a poll was completed among the private and public cemeteries, one cemetery plot was available for veterans (County of San Mateo). DAV Harley's Heroes, co-sponsored by Dudley Perkins Company Harley-Davidson & Buell, South San Francisco motorcycle ride to Eureka, CA, held on November 8th, 2008, event had 45-50 participants, the VA discourages people not to come to this event.

Commissioner(s) Wong mentioned burial site(s) are available at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Santa Nella, and Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, near Dixon for veterans.

Commissioner(s) Wong participated in the flag raising ceremony and Veterans' Day parade (Hayward, Alameda County), on November 11th, 2008 where Congresswoman Barbara Lee 9th District, California, Congressman Peter Stark (13th District, California, Hayward Mayor Michael Sweeney, various city council members/politicians actually marched, KCBS news anchor Stan Bunger was the parade's announcer.

Commissioner Caldera mentioned the current AL issue about homeless veterans.

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of December 1st, 2008 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Champagne thanked all commissioners for their cooperation for another successful Veterans' Day parade event, held on November 9th, 2008. Commissioner Cadera complemented the parade organizers, well-organized, represented cross-section.

Commissioner Cadera extended an invitation all commissioner AL Post #315 holiday party, December 9th, 2008.

Commissioner Guglielmoni complemented Commissioner D. Wong for her active role in the auxiliary veterans service organization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Baldonado asked to be excused from the January 5th, 2009 meeting, will be in the Philippines.*

Congratulations to Commissioner Gruwell for his 13-weeks old son.

Commissioner Varni announced American Legion national commander, will be in town, Thursday, December 11th, 2008 6:30PM \$ 20.00 dinner reservation, with AL Department of California.

HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,700+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, observing numerous veterans obituaries in the local newspapers.

Meeting Information

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, JAN. 5, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Nominations and election of **2009 Commission President, Vice President and Secretary.**

- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
- B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -
- D. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson
- E. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley
- F. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- I. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin

8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,700+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of December.

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of January 5th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:07PM, a quorum being present, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Refreshments provided by Commission President Levin, celebrating a productive new year.

NOTE: U.S. flag code changes to allow salute without military dress attire (January 2008), excerpts:

Respecting the hoisting, lowering or passing of the U.S. flag during parades, ceremonies and other events:

- for current military members in uniform: Stand at attention and render a military salute
- for veterans or former and present military members not in uniform: Stand at attention, remove one's hat, place right hand over heart or render a military salute
- for plain-clothed civilians: Stand at attention, remove one's hat and place right hand over heart

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni	x		
Elbert "Bud" Wilson	x		
Regalado Baldonado			x
Jill Buck	x		
John Caldera	x		
Veronika Cauley			x
Renie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs	x		
Chris Gruwell	x		
James Guglielmoni	x		
Michael Thompson	x		
Edwin Wilkerson	x		
Raymond Wong	x		
Dara Wong	x		
Wayne Snodgrass	x		
Margaret Champagne	x		

Thirteen (13) commissioners present, two (2) commissioners excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum.

Commission President Levin circulated \$ 5.00 off coupons from Mario Benfield, Alexander Hamilton AL post for Chevy's Restaurant, San Francisco location only.

ELECTIONS for 2009 OFFICERS

Seeing no further nominations from the nominating committee, elections were held by written ballots. Commission President Levin asked the committee of tellers, Margaret Champagne and Wayne Snodgrass to carefully count the ballots cast. The elections results were announced:

11 votes cast for Wallace Levin – President

2 votes cast for Veronika Cauley

13 votes cast for Robert Varni – Vice President

13 votes cast for Dara Wong - Secretary

Commission President Levin graciously thanked the commissioners for their confidence in him to lead the Veterans Affairs Commission to another productive new year.

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of January 5th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

MEETING proceeded:

Acceptance for approval of January 5th, 2009 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Guglielmoni , 2nd by Commissioner Thompson. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of December 1st, 2008 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Wilson, 2nd by Commissioner Guglielmoni. Motion passed.

The following committee reports were submitted:

VICE PRESIDENT VARNI - requested to submit his report toward the latter part of meeting.

COMMISSION GOALS AND PLANS

Commissioner(s) Buck and Gibbs proposed that commission plan a picnic at the VA Livermore division's community living center, and a BBQ picnic for the 3rd Street VA downtown clinic. Commissioner Gibbs mentioned the logistics of downtown clinic, small kitchen, sidewalk permit might be needed.

The veterans service organizations are doing all they can and more should be done, to assist the plight of returning veterans. Commission President Levin reminds everyone, the commission has no influence over federal legislation, foreign policy decisions.

Commissioner Buck reported that the Alameda and Contra Costa counties supports our veterans with welcoming home ceremonies.

Commissioner Gibbs mentioned his personal experience from being drafted into the Army, coming back to mainland USA, adapting, overcoming obstacles, medical disability, temporary disability, adjusting to civilian life, filing persistent VA claims to upgrading disability, and gaining insight into the VA.

Commissioner Guglielmoni suggested similar obstacles to upgrading disability. Suggested vets go to different doctor for medical evaluation, changing venue – another facility, do not give up.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson announced January 14th, 2009 planning meeting at the SVAMC Downtown Clinic, 1,500 applications/invitations/flyers sent to employers, event will be held on:

May 13th, 2009 10:00AM thru 2:00PM
18th annual San Francisco Job Fair
Fort Mason Conference Center

Fees fund veterans employment-related assistance program. Commissioner Varni proposed the commission to inform the Board of Supervisors to promote jobfair.

HEALTH & WELFARE

Commissioner Cadera mentioned that returning veterans seeking employment is taking as long as 18 months or more to seek employment. Commissioner Cadera mentioned book-signing January 28th, 2009 7:00PM about returning veterans unemployment. Commissioner Cadera mentioned the AL post #315 circulated calendars, Christmas cards, magazines on December 24th, 2008 at Fort Miley.

Commissioner D.Wong mentioned the VFW circulated holiday goodies, stockings with scripbooks, etc. on December 23rd, 2008 at Fort Miley.nursing care facility.

Commissioner Buck mentioned her group of neighbors sponsored a Christmas breakfast for For the VA Livermore division's community living center.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, FEB. 2, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER	101-29-39A10:57 RLVJ
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	
3. ROLL CALL	
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	GOVERNMENT
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING	DOCUMENTS DEPT
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS	
7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS	JAN 29 2009

Discussion of and possible action on the following 3 issues.
'John Doe' form letters sent to 7,000 bereaved veteran families.
U.S. Highway 80 coast-to-coast highway honoring Korean War Veterans.
Turning the U.S. Postal Service Purple Heart stamp into a forever stamp.

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- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony.
- B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS – By Law review.
- D. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson

Discussion of and possible action on the Recruit Military Career Fair, AT&T Park, San Francisco, Thursday, March 19, 2009 – Comm. Guglielmoni

- E. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley
- F. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -

I. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin
Discussion of and possible action on the new large Museum of Performance & Design banner in the main lobby archway leading to the south elevator.

- 8. OLD BUSINESS
- 9. NEW BUSINESS
- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,800+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of January.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Cheryl D. Cook at the County Veterans Service Office at (415) 554-7100 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

The SF Veterans Affairs Commission meetings are held at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 104 on the 1st Monday of each month. The closest accessible BART station is located at Civic Center. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are the 47 Van Ness, the 71 Haight/Noriega, the 19 Polk, the F-Line streetcar beginning at the Ferry Building at Market out to Castro and the MUNI Metro at Van Ness and Civic Center. For information about MUNI accessible services call 923-6142. There is accessible parking available at the Civic Center Plaza Garage located at 355 McAllister, between Polk and Larkin, Level One near elevators. Metered street parking is also available. The hearing room is wheelchair accessible.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

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Donna Hall
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, FAX: (415) 554-7854
E-mail: Donna.Hall@sfgov.org

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at www.sfgov.org

To inspect documents referred to on agenda, please contact: Commissioner Cheryl D. Cook, Department of Aging and Adult Services/County Veterans Service Office, 875 Stevenson Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, Office: (415) 554-7100, Fax: (415) 554-7101, E-mail: sfcvso@sfgov.org

LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code sections 2.100 – 2.160] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900 San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317 and website www.sfgov.org/ethics.

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of February 2nd, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:09PM, a quorum being present. President Levin asked American Legion District #8 ALWMC (American Legion War Memorial Commission) Chairman Michael Gerold to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni	x		
Elbert "Bud" Wilson	x		
Regalado Baldonado	x		
Jill Buck			x
John Caldera	x		
Veronica Cauley	x		
Remie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs	x		
Chris Gruwell			x
James Guglielmoni	x		
Michael Thompson			x
Edwin Wilkerson	x		
Raymond Wong	x		
Dara Wong	x		

Twelve (12) commissioners present, three (3) commissioners excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Margaret Champagne, Keith Phillips, Mario Benfield, and Michael Gerold were also present.

MEETING proceeded:

Acceptance for approval of February 2nd, 2009 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2nd by Commissioner Wilson. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of January 5th, 2009 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Wilson, 2nd by Commissioner Caldera. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Keith Phillips, former marketing executive from Mill Valley, founded the nonprofit "Project Homecoming" to help locate 88,000 plus troops missing from World War II, Korean, Vietnam wars, and other overseas conflicts. In 2008, he has assisted five (5) veterans' families, to find military wreckage sites, reported findings to Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command in Honolulu, HI. Who are responsible for tracking down the missing from past conflicts. He had circulated "a cost effective proposal for parity in our efforts to return the missing", to ask the commissioners for (1) support legislation to maximize efforts, sustain legal action; (2) to galvanize the veterans' service organizations to locate missing remains of over 700 MIA from California.

Mario Benfield, Alexander Hamilton AL Post #448 Adjutant made an appeal for commissioners to recruit members for the AL auxiliary squadron, Sons of American Legion.

Michael Gerold, AL Post #911, reported that their van is parked at the rear of the veterans building parking area, he asked for the commissions' support, to get the War Memorial trustees to allow overnight parking for 24 hours. President Levin reminded everyone presently, there is no 24 hours parking, for any vehicles in that parking area. Wayne Snodgrass reminded the commissioners that no action could be taken, since this request is not an agenda item, to defer for the March 2nd, 2009 meeting.

The following committee reports were submitted:

ACTION ITEM #1

On January 8th, 2009, the U.S. Army sent "John Doe" form letters to 7,000 bereaved family members of those Americans were killed in Iraq/Afghanistan. The letters should have been addressed to a specific family member. This added to the trauma to families that suffered.

GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS DEPT

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of February 2nd, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

ACTION ITEM #2

Motion by Commissioner Guglielmoni, 2nd by Commissioner Caldera. Motion passed to support the national effort to name the U.S. 80 coast-to-coast highway in honor of Korean War veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, other states have joined this effort with only Texas and California to complete the link.

ACTION ITEM #3

President Levin requests the commissions' support of turning the United States Postal Service Purple Heart stamp into a forever stamp. Letters to support action items to be sent to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. Motion by Commissioner Wilkerson, 2nd by Commissioner Caldera. Motion passed to support the national project to turn the United States Postal Service Purple Heart stamp into a forever stamp. Every time that the stamp is used, it is a tribute to those killed and wounded while serving in armed forces of the United States.

VICE PRESIDENT VARNI

Commissioner Varni (Aide to the Secretary of the Army) reported on his combat stress project. And the March 24, 2009 meeting at the Marines' Memorial Club. Commissioner Varni discussed traumatic brain injury (TBI) among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, an ongoing project of outreach to pursue. 20% TBI patients coming back from multiple deployments from Iraq. U.S. Army is leaving TBI problems to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

COMMISSION GOALS AND PLANS

President Levin reported ongoing bylaws review.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Wilkerson announced February 2009 planning meeting at the SFVAMC Downtown Clinic, 1,600 applications/invitations/fliers sent to employers, event will be held on:

May 13th, 2009 10:00AM thru 2:00PM
18th annual San Francisco Job Fair
Fort Mason Conference Center

Commissioner Guglielmoni asked fellow commissioners to promote a future event RecruitMilitary Career Fair, Thursday, March 19, 2009 11:00AM – 3:00PM, AT&T Park
<http://careers.recruitmilitary.com/cf/183-San-Francisco/candidates/information>

Motion of support by Commissioner Guglielmoni to support the RecruitMilitary Career Fair, 2nd by Commissioner Wilson. Motion passed.

LEGISLATION

Commissioner R. Wong circulated "The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform S3527, HR6939" reported on reforming veterans' health care funding, which is supported by American Legion, American Veterans, Blinded Veterans Association, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Vietnam Veterans of America, with support from Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Akaka (D-HI), and House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Filner (D-CA).

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

Commissioner R. Wong reported on the Veterans of Foreign Wars along with American Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America, offered 7 priorities for the Department of Veterans Affairs:

- increasing VA's budget
- improving Iraq/Afghanistan veterans' medical care
- upgrading VA medical facility maintenance
- improving the benefits claims process
- easing the transition from the military to VA's health care system
- recruiting more and keeping high-quality VA employees

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of February 2nd, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

• expanding VA's cemetery system
Commissioner R. Wong also reported that VA to open 4 more California outpatient clinics in 2010.

Commissioner D. Wong mentioned Joseph P. McQuaide LAVFW #1205 members were honored to participate at the January 20th, 2009 inaugural activities, as members of the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

Commissioner Caldera reported on his personal activities with the Bob Basker AL Post #315, and that his complaint against this commission with the city's Ethics Commission has been withdrawn.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Champagne mentioned Tuskegee airmen were honored to witness the inaugural ceremony.

President Levin reported on the brown Museum of Performance & Design banner that the War Memorial trustees allowed to be placed in the lobby of the War Memorial Veterans Building. This ugly banner takes away from the beauty of the lobby, and makes the lobby out of balance. Motion by Commissioner Guglielmoni, 2nd by Commissioner Wilson. Motion passed to request for the War Memorial trustees to remove this eyesore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Guglielmoni reported the DAV memorial February 23rd, 2009 dedication during the DAV mid-winter conference, Washington DC.

Commissioner Caldera mentioned the AL Four Chaplains' remembrance ceremony February 7th, 2009, St. Mary's Cathedral, observing the February 3rd, 1943 anniversary of the sinking troops transport USAT Dorchester

HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,865+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of January, and DAV/MOPH veteran SFPD Donald Joseph Van Tricht.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

OPEN - PUBLIC RECORD

MEETING AGENDA

GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS DEPT

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Discussion, review & evaluation of and possible action on the following issues:

Keith Phillips Missing in Action (MIA) Project to increase the rate in which we recover America's missing members of our Armed Forces.

Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Commissioner Varni's Combat Stress Project and the March 24, 2009 evaluation meeting, at the Marines Memorial Club.

Assemblywoman Fiona Ma's Assembly Bill No. 223, pertaining to San Francisco's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. This bill would save the jobs of a dozen veterans.

Navy League supported San Francisco Sea Scout's problems with the National Park Service. This is the only Scouting program in the city that provides maritime training.

Supervisor Carmen Chu's Board of Supervisors, Feb. 10, 2009, Special Order Recognition of Commendation, to veteran LTC. Powell, JROTC San Francisco Director.

American Legion Post 911 request to the War Memorial Trustees to park their van for 24 hours in the parking area behind the Veterans Building.

- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin
- B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -
- D. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson
- E. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley
- F. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- I. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin

8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,800+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of February.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of March 2nd, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

Vice President Varni called the meeting to order at 6:06PM, a quorum being present. Commissioner Cauley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni	x		
Elbert "Bud" Wilson	x		
Regalado Baldonado	x		
Jill Buck	x		
John Caldera	x		
Veronika Cauley	x		
Renie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs			x
Chris Gruwell	x		
James Guglielmoni			x
Michael Thompson	x		
Edwin Wilkerson			x
Raymond Wong	x		
Dara Wong	x		

GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS DEPT

MAR 18 2009

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Twelve (12) commissioners present, three (3) commissioners excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass, Margaret Champagne, Keith Phillips, and Yon-Teo Seeger (Past AL Post #911 adjutant) were also present. Twenty-three (23) participants from the BSA Troop 88, Sea Scout Ship Corsair 22, and Sea Scout Ship Viking 100 were present..

Acceptance for approval of March 2nd, 2009 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Varni, 2nd by Commissioner Cauley. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of February 2nd, 2009 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2nd by Commissioner Champagne. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM #1

BSA Troop 88, Sea Scout Ship Corsair 22, and Sea Scout Ship Viking 100 are chartered units in the Sea Scouting program, of the Boy Scouts of America (San Francisco Bay Area Council), this council is sponsored by the San Francisco Bar Pilots Association. *Corsair* and *Viking* are Sailing Whaleboats-30', wooden, open boats powered by sails and oars, ketch and cutter rigged, respectively. They were constructed by the U.S. Navy in the 1930's, and donated to the San Francisco Sea Scouts during World War II. Thus, their programs each have been running continuously in San Francisco for over sixty years, since 1947. *Corsair* is crewed by male youth, and *Viking* by female youth. Twenty-three participants from the above-mentioned groups appeared before the commission, to ask for support from the commission, explaining the pending March 31st eviction date from the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (Aquatic Park), which is managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Steven Welch (Corsair quartermaster, mate) reported the NPS changed the unconditional use, requiring a special use permit, short extension to March 31st eviction date. They are campaigning to get their old agreement back with the NPS and to have the NPS accept them as part of the park. Commissioners Cauley and Wilson motioned to support the Sea Scout Ship resolution, 2nd by Commissioner Buck. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM #2

Keith Phillips "Project Homecoming" and John Wang reported before the commission regarding the revised resolution to help locate 88,000 plus troops missing from World War II, Korean, Vietnam wars, and other

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of March 2nd, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

oversea conflicts. Commissioner Champagne motioned to support the modified resolution, 2nd by Commissioner Cauley. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM #3

Aide to the Secretary of the U.S. Army, Commissioner Varni's combat stress project and an invitation to the March 24, 2009 evaluation meeting, at the Marines' Memorial Club. President Levin urged commission members to attend this meeting. Commissioner Varni discussed traumatic brain injury (TBI) among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, an ongoing project of outreach to pursue. 20% TBI patients coming back from multiple deployments from Iraq. U.S. Army is leaving TBI problems to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION ITEM #4

Supervisor Carmen Chu (District 4) welcomed, introduced and presented a Certificate of Honor to Colonel Robert Powell for his service in the community and in recognition of February as Black History Month, during the regular scheduled February 10th Board of Supervisors' meeting, special order - recognition of commendations. President Levin and Commissioner R. Wong motioned to support this great public servant, 2nd by Commissioner Caldera. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM #5

Assemblywoman Fiona Ma (12th Assembly District, State Assembly Majority Whip), introduced AB 223 on February 4th, 2009 pertaining to San Francisco Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, with a February 5th press conference at Lowell High School, which two Commissioner(s) Wong supported for many years. AB 223 would save the jobs of a dozen veterans.

The following committee reports were submitted:

COMMISSION GOALS AND PLANS

President Levin reported ongoing bylaws review. Commissioner Caldera circulated the current commission bylaws to the President, Vice President, and Secretary.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson announced February 2009 planning meeting at the SFVAMC Downtown Clinic, 1,600 applications/invitations/flyers sent to employers, event will be held on:

May 13th, 2009 10:00AM thru 2:00PM
18th annual San Francisco Job Fair
Fort Mason Conference Center

LEGISLATION

- AB 38 (Mary Salas) postsecondary education; resident classification; veterans. Enacts Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2009. Would entitle a veteran to resident classification status, for purpose of determining tuition and fees at the state universities and colleges, for the length of time the student lives in the state after being discharged from the military service if the student qualifies.
- AB 351 (Mary Salas) JROTC PE credit, introduced February 19, 2009
- AB 264 (Paul Cook) would require the Governor to annually proclaim March 30th as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"
- SB 15 (Gil Cedillo) student financial aid for members and former members of the Armed Forces

HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,865+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of February.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

55-18-0941126 RCV

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)**

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER	GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	
3. ROLL CALL	MAR 18 2009
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING	
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS	SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS	
<i>Discussion of and possible action on the following items:</i>	
Removal of Pentagons ban on news coverage of returning military remains.	
War veterans individual ready reserve obligation.	
Increase in suicide rate of Iraq/Afghanistan war veterans.	
National Park Service historic military fortifications preservation program.	
New War Memorial Veterans Building lobby center archway banner.	
Supervisor Maxwell's legislation to name 3 rd St. for vet supporter Willie Brown.	
Higher education's plans for the new GI Bill.	
A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin	
B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni	
<i>Discussion of and possible action on Combat Stress Project.</i>	
C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -	
D. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson	
E. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley	
F. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs	
<i>Discussion of and possible action on November Project Homeless Connect Event.</i>	
G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong	
Assemblywoman Fiona Ma's JROTC Assembly Bill Number 223.	
H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -	
I. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin	
American Legion Post 911 request to War Memorial Trustees to park for 24 hours.	
War Memorial Trustees March 12, 2009 meeting.	
8. OLD BUSINESS	
San Francisco Sea Scout's problems with the National Park Service.	
Missing in Action (MIA) Project to increase rate in which MIA's are recovered.	
9. NEW BUSINESS	
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,800+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of March.	

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of April 6th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05PM, a quorum being present. President Levin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni	x		
Elbert "Bud" Wilson	x		
Regalado Baldonado	x		
Jill Buck			x
John Caldera	x		
Veronika Cauley			x
Renie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs	x		
Chris Gruwell			x
James Guglielmoni	x		
Michael Thompson	x		
Edwin Wilkerson			x
Raymond Wong			x
Dara Wong			x

Nine (9) commissioners present, six (6) commissioners excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Margaret Champagne and Lisa Ang (Mayor's of Neighborhood Services) were present.

Acceptance for approval of April 6th, 2009 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Guglielmoni, 2nd by Commissioner Baldonado. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of March 2nd, 2009 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2nd by Commissioner Champagne. Motion passed to approve additions. Agenda item #5 (AB 223), and agenda item #6 (AL Post #911 van support) was added.

ACTION ITEM #1

Removal of Pentagon's ban on news coverage of returning military remains. New policy will allow press coverage of the return military remains at Dover AFB in Delaware, only with the permission of the deceased veterans' member families.

ACTION ITEM #2

Combat veterans individual ready reserve obligation. President Levin stated that all military members have a statutory eight-year military service obligation (MSO), which is established at the time of entry into military service (Active or Reserve). Traditional enlistment terms are three, four, five and six years. Terms of service for active duty are from 2-6 years. When an individual enlists, in the military, it is made clear to that person, what they are signing up for. There is also a need, under certain conditions, for the military to show compassion.

ACTION ITEM #3

Increase in suicide rate of Iraq/Afghanistan combat veterans, U.S. Marines commanders will offer a two-hour suicide-prevention presentation to all Marines, to consult with counselors. More Marines and Army personnel, committed suicide in 2008 than were killed in combat.

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of April 6th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

ACTION ITEM #4

National Park Service historic military fortifications preservation program was referred by the San Francisco Chronicle 03-14-2009 article. The temporary nature of many buildings, constructed to serve home front purposes, has been one factor in the challenge of preserving these places for future generations. By raising awareness of the Bay Area's collective World War II heritage, the National Park Service itinerary invites reappraisal of its buildings' legacy.

ACTION ITEM #5

New lobby center archway banner for the War Memorial Veterans' Building. President Levin and Michael Gerold, along with the other veterans service organizations, supports permanent exterior/interior signage identification. President Levin, Commissioner Varni, Commissioner Guglielmoni, and M. Gerold offered suggestions on how to accomplish this goal.

ACTION ITEM #6

District 10 Board of Supervisor Maxwell's introduced legislation to name 3rd Street for veterans supporter former Mayor Willie Brown.

ACTION ITEM #6

Public Law 110-252 signed by President George Bush June 30, 2008. The Veterans Affairs will be accepting application May 1, 2009, for the 21st century GI bill which will start in August.

The following committee reports were submitted:

COMMISSION GOALS AND PLANS

Aide to the Secretary of the U.S. Army, Commissioner Varni's combat stress project, reported March 24, 2009 evaluation Marines' Memorial Club 5 hour meeting. Commission members (Thompson, Wilkerson, Buck, Caldera, Varni) were present. Commissioner Varni discussed traumatic brain injury (TBI) among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, an ongoing project of outreach to pursue. 20% TBI patients coming back from multiple deployments from Iraq. Motion by Commissioner Guglielmoni, 2nd by Commissioner Baldonado to support this project. Motion passed.

HOMELESS VETERANS

President Levin reported there will be a Veterans Connect to be held at the SFVAMC Downtown Clinic in November 2009. Motion to support November 2009 Veterans Connect by Commissioner Gibbs, 2nd by Commissioner Thompson. Motion passed. Commissioner Gibbs reported that 30% were actual veterans at the 2008 Veterans Connect event, held at the War Memorial Veterans Building.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson announced the EDD job fair event will be held on:

May 13th, 2009 10:00AM thru 2:00PM
18th annual San Francisco Job Fair
Fort Mason Conference Center

Commissioner Thompson reported there are 3 EDD veterans' representatives; Governor Schwarzenegger offers 2 furlough days, in 1977, there were 14 EDD veterans' representatives.

LEGISLATION

Commissioner R. Wong reported:

- AB 38 (Mary Salas) postsecondary education; resident classification; veterans. Enacts Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2009. Would entitle a veteran to resident classification status, for purpose of determining tuition and fees at the state universities and colleges, for the length of time the student lives in the state after being discharged from the military service if the student qualifies.

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of April 6th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

- AB 223 (Fiona Ma/Ted Lieu) PE: JROTC, introduced February 4, 2009
- AB 351 (Mary Salas) JROTC PE credit, introduced February 19, 2009

AB 223 and AB 351 was heard 04-01-2009 Assembly Education Committee following a JROTC rally at the Capitol

- AB 264 (Paul Cook) would require the Governor to annually proclaim March 30th as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"
- AB1571 (Mary Salas) veterans mental health: county plans
- AB 1077 (Joel Anderson) income taxes: exclusion: military retirement benefits
- SB 15 (Gil Cedillo) student financial aid for members and former members of the Armed Forces
- SB 469 (Sam Aanestad) Northern California veterans cemetery fees
- SB 595 (Gil Cedillo) homeless veterans housing and supportive services act of 2010
- SB 644 (Jeff Denham) civil service examinations: veterans' preference
- SB 646 (Jeff Denham) student financial aid: veterans and dependents
- SB 815 (David Cogdill) student financial aid programs: military services

OLD BUSINESS

National Park Service has backed off the so-called violations may have lacked merit, as the BSA Sea Scouts have exceeded the NPS environmental standards. Many thanks to Commissioner Buck and Commissioner Varni for their efforts to support BSA Sea Scouts organized water access and keeping the maritime traditions alive. The commission's resolution also helped to get this victory.

The SFWMPAC Veterans Committee 04-09-2009 was cancelled, because Michael Gerold (ALWMC Chairman) requested a postponement of ALWMC proposal to provide space in the War Memorial Veterans Building to Swords to Plowshares for a veterans employment training program.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Horn (SFWMPAC 02-12-2009 minutes), Chairman of the Veterans Building Project Committee, stated the project cost has increased from \$ 114.3 million, to \$ 130.3 million. Closure of the War Memorial Veterans Building shall commerce January 1, 2013.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisa Ang, Liaison to District 2/6, Asian Pacific American Community, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services invited the commission to an event, on Thursday, April 9, 2009, Commissioner Baldonado reminded everyone about the Veterans Equity Center invitation.

President Levin reported he had attended the AL Bataan Post #600 equity victory candlelight procession, February 18, 2009. from the fed building to the veterans build

Commissioner Caldera asked who is the liaison to commissions. President Levin replied Mayor Newsom had appointed Jason Chan, Liaison to Commissions.

Commissioner Guglielmoni reported that there are 40 veterans' plots available at Olivet Memorial Park \$9,995.00 per plot, the cemetery was re-plotted.

HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,924+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of March.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

05-01-09 A11419 RCVD

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS

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Discussion of and possible action on the following items:

Higher education's plans for the new GI Bill.

Request to private higher education institutions to join the new GI Bill.

Department of Homeland Security's negative report on returning veterans.

Commission support of Commissioner Regalado Baldonado.

- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin - Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony.
- B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni - Combat Stress Project.
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS
- D. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson - Fort Mason Job Fair.
- E. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley
- F. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- I. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin

8. OLD BUSINESS

San Francisco Sea Scout's problems with the National Park Service.

Missing in Action (MIA) Project to increase rate in which MIA's are recovered.

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,900+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of April.

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Meeting Information

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of May 4th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS DEPT

JAN 15 2010

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PUBLIC LIBRARY

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:13PM, a quorum being present. President Levin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni	x		
Elbert "Bud" Wilson	x		
Regalado Baldonado	x		
Jill Buck	x		
John Caldera	x		
Veronica Cauley			x
Renie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs	x		
Chris Gruwell	x		
James Guglielmoni			x
Michael Thompson	x		
Edwin Wilkerson	x		
Raymond Wong	x		
Dara Wong	x		

Thirteen (13) commissioners present, two (2) commissioners excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Michael Gerold, Yon-Teo Seeger, Margaret Champagne, and Wayne Snodgrass were present.

Acceptance for approval of May 4, 2009 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2nd by Commissioner Wilkerson. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of April 6, 2009 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Wilson, 2nd by Commissioner Champagne. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM #1

Public Law 110-252 signed by President George Bush June 30, 2008. The Department of Veterans Affairs will be accepting application May 1, 2009, for the 21st century GI bill which will start in August. President Levin proposed a resolution to write letters to CCSF, SFSU, USF, to inquire how these colleges will plan to institute the new GI bill for resident students at public institutions, and how will the institutions support the returning veterans, and that private colleges and universities joined the GI bill. Motion by Commissioner Varni, 2nd by Commissioner Champagne. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM #2

In a March 19, 2009 USAtoday.com article, many private colleges (for profit) have many questions about new GI bill, which addresses public colleges/universities the federal government will pay up to what it would cost to enroll in the highest-priced undergraduate program at a public in-state public school. President Levin's resolution to (1) request private colleges/universities to join the new GI bill; (2) to ask the Mayor, and the Board of Supervisors to support the GI bill, a welcoming environment for returning veterans, student veterans clubs on various CCSF, SFSU, USF campus(s). Motion by Commissioner Varni, 2nd by Commissioner Champagne. Motion passed, no opposition.

ACTION ITEM #3

The Department of Homeland Security on guard for "right-wing extremists", singled out returning military combat veterans as particular threats, in a derogatory report released April 7, 2009, titled "Right-wing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment", states that "threats from white supremacist and violent anti-government groups during 2009 have been largely rhetorical and have not indicated plans to carry out violent acts." Commissioner Gibbs discussed similar circumstances in the 1970s. Motion by Commissioner Wilkerson, 2nd by Commissioner D. Wong, no opposition, to send a letter to the Mayor and members of the Board of Supervisors to go on record to correct the perception of returning veterans.

The following committee reports were submitted:

COMMISSION GOALS AND PLANS

Aide to the Secretary of the U.S. Army, Commissioner Varni's combat stress project, May 26, 2009 10:00AM – 2:00PM meeting, War Memorial Veterans Building, all commission members are welcomed.

HOMELESS VETERANS

Commissioner Gibbs reported there will be a Veterans Connect on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, accepting clothing/monetary donations:

SFVAMC Downtown Clinic
401-3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94107-1214

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson announced the EDD job fair event will be held on:
May 13, 2009 10:00AM thru 2:00PM

19th annual San Francisco Job Fair
Fort Mason Conference Center

LEGISLATION

Commissioner R.Wong reported:

- AB 38 (Mary Salas) postsecondary education; resident classification; veterans. Enacts Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2009. Would entitle a veteran to resident classification status, for purpose of determining tuition and fees at the state universities and colleges, for the length of time the student lives in the state after being discharged from the military service if the student qualifies.
- AB 223 (Fiona Ma/Ted Lieu) PE: JROTC, introduced February 4, 2009
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AB 223 and AB 351 was heard 04-01-2009 Assembly Education Committee following a JROTC rally at the Capitol

- AB 265 (Paul Cook) would require the Governor to annually proclaim March 30th as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"
- AB 1571 (Mary Salas) veterans mental health; county plans
- AB 1077 (Joel Anderson) income taxes: exclusion: military retirement benefits
- SB 15 (Gil Cedillo) student financial aid for members and former members of the Armed Forces
- SB 469 (Sam Ananstad) Northern California veterans cemetery fees
- SB 595 (Gil Cedillo) homeless veterans housing and supportive services act of 2010, May 28, 2009 hearing before Senate appropriations
- SB 644 (Jeff Denham) civil service examinations: veterans' preference
- SB 646 (Jeff Denham) student financial aid: veterans and dependents
- SB 815 (David Cogdill) student financial aid programs: military services

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Champagne mentioned his appreciation for the energetic efforts for the 141st annual San Francisco National Cemetery, Presidio, May 25, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Levi announced he had received a media packet for 1919-2009 MVPA Transcontinental Motor Convoy, traveling from Washington DC, June 13, 2009; arriving approximately in San Francisco, CA on July 8, 2009, 150 historical military vehicles, in celebration of Abraham Lincoln 200th birthday.

Commissioner Wong(s) welcomes the commission to the 30th anniversary Asian Pacific American Heritage Month proclamation signing ceremony and reception, following today's meeting.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-12th Congressional District) sponsoring GI bill fair, San Mateo county

May 9, 2009, 11:30AM – 3:00PM
757 San Bruno Avenue
San Bruno, CA 94066-3411

HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,924+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of April.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

05-29-09 11:03 RCV'D

7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Discussion of and possible action on the following items:
Examiner's lack of coverage of local Memorial Day Events.
MVPA 2009 Transcontinental Motor Convoy Project.
VA Medical Center and Presidio Trust Welcome Home 2009 Event.

GOVERNMENT
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MAY 29 2009

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- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin - Presidio Memorial Day Ceremony.
- B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni - Combat Stress Project.
- C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS
- D. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson - Fort Mason Job Fair.
- E. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley
- F. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs - Homeless Connect Nov. Event.
- G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong - JROTC P.E. credit bills.
Discussion of and possible action.
- H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -
- I. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin – Flying the POW/MIA flag at the Veterans Building every day. Discussion of and possible a action.

8. OLD BUSINESS

San Francisco Sea Scout's problems with the National Park Service.
Missing in Action (MIA) Project to increase rate in which MIA's are recovered.

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 4,990+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of May.

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of June 1st, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

The following committee reports were submitted:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – PRESIDIO MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

President Levin thanked Commissioners Varni, Wilson, Caldera, Gibbs, Guglielmoni, Thompson, Wilkerson, Raymond and Dara Wong for attending the Memorial Day Ceremony. President Levin also gave special thanks to Raymond Wong for being the MC; Commissioner D. Wong for editing the written program; Commissioner Buck for taking care of the printing; Commissioner Wilson as parade director, Commissioner Guglielmoni for helping Commissioner Wilson; Commissioner Thompson for leading the Pledge of Allegiance; Commissioner Gibbs for being part of the Buffalo Soldiers' tribute; Commissioners Varni, Caldera, and Wilkerson for helping with the VIP's and the press.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – COMBAT STRESS PROJECT

Commissioner Buck, Gibbs, Guglielmoni, and Thompson gave reports on the 2nd successful Combat Stress Project May 26th meeting, held at the War Memorial Veterans Building.

Commissioner Guglielmoni reported that Commissioner Varni is in the hospital, Commissioner D. Wong will send a card on behalf of the commission.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson reported on the 19th annual EDD Veterans Employment Committee's job fair event at Fort Mason Conference Center. Commissioners Wilkerson, R. Wong, and D. Wong also attended. There were 26 employers/vendors, and 500 job seekers attending.

Commissioner Guglielmoni reported there will be an East Bay Veterans Fair on July 13, 2009,
Concord Hilton
1970 Diamond Boulevard
Concord, CA 94520-5718

HOMELESS VETERANS

Commissioner Gibbs reported there will be a Veterans Connect on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, accepting clothing and monetary donations:

SFVAMC Downtown Clinic
401-3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94107-1214

Commissioner R. Wong reported a \$ 250.00 VFW donation. Commissioner Buck will also be supporting this event.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION

Commissioner R. Wong reported that the following Senate bills have already been passed:

- SB 469 (Sam Anestad) Northern California veterans cemetery fees
- SB 644 (Jeff Denham) civil service examinations: veterans' preference
-

Commissioner R. Wong reported that the following Senate bills were "held under submission" by the Committee on Appropriations, and are now dead:

- SB 15 (Gil Cedillo) student financial aid for members and former members of the Armed Forces
- SB 595 (Gil Cedillo) homeless veterans housing and supportive services act of 2010, May 28, 2009 hearing before Senate appropriations
- SB 611 (Lou Correa) student financial aid: Cal grant A entitlement awards: veterans
- SB 646 (Jeff Denham) student financial aid: veterans and dependents

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NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of June 1st, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05PM, a quorum being present. President Levin asked Margaret Champagne to lead the commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni			x
Elbert "Bud" Wilson	x		
Regalado Baldonado	x		
Jill Buck	x		
John Caldera	x		
Veronika Cauley			x
Renie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs	x		
Chris Gruwell	x		
James Guglielmoni	x		
Michael Thompson	x		
Edwin Wilkerson			x
Raymond Wong	x		
Dara Wong	x		

Twelve (12) commissioners present, three (3) commissioners excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Margaret Champagne and Michael Gerold were present.

Acceptance for approval of June 1, 2009 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Wilson, 2nd by Commissioner Champagne. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM #1

President Levin reported that because of Mayor Newsom's support for the Memorial Day ceremony funding, he was able to place ads in six local publications to promote the event. For the first time in memory the Examiner had nothing about local Memorial Days events prior to the holiday, and a small picture after. This was the worst Examiner coverage ever.

ACTION ITEM #2

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association will conduct a 90th anniversary transcontinental motor convoy across the United States, with as many as 150 historic military vehicles. They will retrace the original 1919 U.S. Army transcontinental route along the Lincoln highway, in conjunction with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, celebrating the 200th birthday of our 16th President. The convoy will leave Washington DC on June 13, 2009, and arrive in San Francisco on July 8, 2009. Motion by Commissioner Champagne, 2nd by Commissioner Baldonado to support this event. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM #3

The San Francisco VA Medical Center and VA Palo Alto Healthcare System, with support from the Presidio Trust will be having a welcome home event for Iraq/Afghanistan combat veterans. The VA will make available to veterans information on enrollment, healthcare, claims/benefits, employment, and education. Motion by Commissioner Buck, 2nd by Commissioner Thompson to support this event. Motion passed,

Welcome Home 2009

Golden Gate Club, Presidio of San Francisco

135 Fisher Loop

San Francisco, CA 94129-1194

September 26, 2009

11:00AM – 3:00PM

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of June 1st, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

Commissioner R. Wong reported that the VFW is cracking down on posts that are not following the VFW bylaws. Commissioner Guglielmoni reported that AMVETS and the DAV are also taking action.

President Levin reported that the commission sent a flower wreath to the USS San Francisco CA-38 ceremony on Sunday, May 24, 2009.

President Levin presented a Filipino Equity Victory shirt to Commissioner Baldonado for all of his efforts to get this legislation passed.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

Motion by Commissioner Guglielmoni, 2nd by Commissioner Baldonado supporting the flying the POW/MIA flag over the War Memorial Veterans Building every day. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Champagne mentioned his appreciation for the energetic efforts for the 141st annual San Francisco National Cemetery, Presidio, May 25, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

Steven Welch informed the commission that the Sea Scouts are now working with the National Park Service to work out their problems, and that things are looking better. He also thanked the commission for our help and support.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

AL District #8 Commander Michael Gerold reported that they were providing transportation to the AL Department Convention June 18-21, 2009 for delegates, to Riverside.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Caldera reported that the Veterans for Peace and AL Post #315 were having a program on Afghanistan this month at the War Memorial Veterans Building.

The commission will take its traditional summer recess in July, thus there will be no meeting in July. The next commission meeting will held on August 3, 2009.

HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned in memory of the 4,990+ Americans killed in Iraq/Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of May and the below listed local veterans that recently passed away.

Lester Petterson, 83, served in World War II as a Merchant Marine, USNR, SFFD

Michael Matushenko, 63, served in Vietnam, U.S. Marine Corps artillery

Kado Alvin Marsh, 91, World War II, U.S. Navy aviation chief radioman

Milton Rudolph DeLucchi, 90, World War II, U.S. Army Air Corps, photo-reconnaissance, D-Day

Colonel William Applegate, 90, served 32 years in the U.S. Army during World War II, Korea, Vietnam

Walter Koniuk, 83, World War II, U.S. Marine Corps

Alice Audrey Andrews Dilgard, 93, World War II, U.S. Army Air Corps, 26 years served, master sergeant

The meeting adjourned at 7:16PM.

The Officer

July - August 2009

www.roa.org

Domestic Terrorism: Veterans are the Focus of Reports on Extremism

A controversial Department of Homeland Security (DHS) report on right-wing extremists focused a spotlight on veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, angering generations of veterans. But this was just the tip of the iceberg; more attention is being directed at active and former military as potential terrorist risks.

Disclosure of the DHS report sparked a firestorm of dissent, especially after Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said she stood by the content of the report, which listed returning veterans as terrorist risks. Secretary Napolitano ended up backing down and apologizing a number of times, to different groups, starting with a public appearance on CNN. During a meeting with American Legion Commander Dave Rehbein, Secretary Napolitano reportedly admitted that "the report was not worthy of this department, or of veterans."

Yet this is not just one incident. A February 2009 report titled "The Modern Militia Movement" by the Missouri In-

formation Analysis Center (MIAC), a state fusion center, listed the characteristics of violent militia members. While not as provocative as the DHS report, it does reference an event where National Guard and Reserve facilities received pro-militia materials by mail. While Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon initially stood by the report, the state of Missouri later ordered MIAC to "permanently cease distribution."

The Virginia fusion center issued its *Terrorist Threat Assessment* in March 2009, highlighting potential terrorism risks affecting the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Virginia report identified more than 50 different terrorist risks, both international and domestic, from the right extreme to the left-wing. This report discussed white supremacist groups recruiting "military veterans skilled in weapons and tactics." It also referred to Virginia's network of colleges and universities as a potential avenue of entry for terrorist operatives and a possible forum for recruitment of sympathizers. Virginia Gov. Timothy Kaine said in a statement: "This report is required by

law and was illegally distributed to the public. However, I find the depictions in the report misleading and believe it improperly implicates these fine academic institutions."

Many states and local fusion centers have been created to share clandestine information within their jurisdictions as well as with the federal government. The DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis provides intelligence analysts to the fusion centers. There are 58 fusion centers around the country. By December 2009, DHS expects to deploy 70 professionals.

Even more disturbing is Operation Vigilant Eagle, an initiative by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The *Wall Street Journal* reports that this FBI nationwide operation targets "white supremacists and 'militia/sovereign-citizen' extremist groups," including a focus on veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, according to *Journal*-acquired memos sent from bureau headquarters to field offices. The aim of the FBI's effort with the Department of Defense, which was rolled into the Vigilant Eagle program, is to "share information regarding Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans whose involvement in white supremacy and/or militia sovereignty

citizen extremist groups poses a domestic terrorism threat," according to the Feb. 23 FBI memo. Publicity about the FBI memo was eclipsed by the fury over the DHS report and Secretary Napolitano's response.

Before his departure as attorney general, Michael Mukasey and the Department of Justice implemented a new set of guidelines in December 2008 to govern FBI investigations that reduced standards for beginning assessments. Under the new authority, FBI agents can investigate anyone they choose, so long as they claim they are acting to prevent a crime, protect national security, or collect foreign intelligence. The American Civil Liberties Union warns that these new guidelines provide no safeguards and could encroach on individual rights.

These reports tie terrorism to radicalization and radicalism to extremism. The jump in logic is that consideration of ideas can lead to the manifestation of violence, and that radical interests are suspect. It is not a good investment of limited resources to pick a class of people to assess. Looking at every veteran as a suspect is not a good return on investment.—MAH

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, AUG. 3, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER – Meeting held in honor of Past President Bud Wilson

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Tribute to Past President and Commissioner Bud Wilson

Discussion of and possible action on the following items:

Veterans' Home of California at Yountville closure of Acute Care Hospital.

Swords to Plowshares Veterans Employment Green Room Event Sept. 29th.

A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin - Elected Officials Memorial Day Role of honor.

B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni - Combat Stress Project.

C. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -

D. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson -

E. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley

F. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs -

G. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. Wong -

H. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS -

I. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin - Swords to

Plowshares is opening a Veterans Employment Office, 3rd floor, Veterans Building.

Expired 12/31/08 American Legion War Memorial Commission and War Memorial

Trustees two year financial agreement has still not been renewed. The Trustees have given the third three month extension, which will end on Sept. 30, 2009.

8. OLD BUSINESS - San Francisco Sea Scout's problems with the National Park Service. Missing in Action (MIA) Project to increase rate in which MIA's are recovered.

9. NEW BUSINESS -

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Michael Thompson has been re-appointed to another term on the Veterans Affairs Commission, with the term ending on Jan. 31, 2013.

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,028+ Americans killed in Iraq (4,305) /Afghanistan (723), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans that died because of suicide during the months of June & July and the following local veterans who recently passed away. Allen Strutz, 91, World War II, Member of the Alameda Veterans Affairs Commission and VFW. The Hayward Veterans Memorial Building was renamed in his honor in 2000. Bok Pon, Commander and leader of the American Legion Chinatown Post.

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of August 3rd, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05PM, a quorum being present. The meeting was held in honor of Past Commission President Elbert "Bud" Wilson. President Levin asked Gina Guglielmoni to lead the commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni	x		
Regalado Baldonado	x		
Jill Buck			x
John Caldera	x		
Veronica Cauley	x		
Renie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs	x		
Chris Gruwell	x		
James Guglielmoni	x		
Michael Thompson	x		
Edwin Wilkerson	x		
Raymond Wong	x		
Dara Wong	x		

Thirteen (13) commissioners present, Jill Buck excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Wayne Snodgrass, Margaret Champagne, and Gina Guglielmoni were present.

Acceptance for approval of August 3rd, 2009 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Guglielmoni, 2nd by Commissioner Cauley. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of June 1st, 2009 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Cauley, 2nd by Commissioner Champagne. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of May 4th, 2009 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2nd by Commissioner Thompson. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND TRIBUTE TO BUD WILSON

President Levin paid tribute to Past Commission President Bud Wilson, who passed away suddenly on July 23, 2009. Bud was an U.S. Army Air Corps fighter pilot during World War II and also served in the Air Force during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He was a Command Pilot and he served all over the world. After a tour at the Pentagon he retired a Lieutenant Colonel after 25 years of service. He was awarded 17 medals, ribbons, citations, and awards. He was a distinguished veteran who never blew his own horn about his military accomplishments. Even though he had some health problems, he still served two years as commission vice president and then two years as president. During his time on the commission he only missed one meeting and that was because of an important family event. After his Air Force service he dedicated himself to public service and was a community leader in the West of Twin Peaks area of San Francisco. He was buried at the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, Dixon with a USAF honor guard/taps.

The following committee reports were submitted:

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of August 3rd, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

REPORTS AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Commissioner Dara Wong, 2nd by Commissioner Raymond Wong to oppose the closing of the Acute Care Hospital, at the Veterans' Home at Yountville. Motion passed with 11 commissioners for, and 2 abstentions.

Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2nd by Commissioner Baldonado to support the Swords to Plowshares Veterans Employment Event at the War Memorial Veterans Building – Green Room on September 29th, 2009.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – COMBAT STRESS PROJECT

Vice President Varni reported on his report to the Secretary of the Army:

Previous Six Months Contributions: I devoted the recent six months in developing an understanding of Combat Stress. Current estimates of troops returning with Combat Stress have risen to 400,000 since my report of six months ago.

My conclusion upon reviewing the data on Combat Stress is as follows: The available medical capabilities and services are very good. The research being done appears to be of benefit for future needs. The one weakness in the system is the outreach to those who need the help. Currently, the medical practitioners are required to do the outreach which erodes their time available to perform care requirements.

Next Six Months Goals: The goal is to connect the various groups interested in helping with the purpose of increasing efficiency and reducing duplication. We will start at the top of the food chain.

Here in the San Francisco Bay Area, we have developed the "retail" component of the national effort. We, the Action Team, operate with feet on the ground, face-to-face contact with the veterans. To manage the operation, we have developed a software package designed specifically for this application. This package developed for the San Francisco Bay Area can be considered as the prototype, and can easily be implemented in regions across the United States.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson was just appointed to another term on the commission ending in 2012. He reported that unemployment is now 11.5%, but the claim count has gone down. The new GI bill started on August 1st, 2009. The veterans' employment committee will meet on August 27th, 2009

HOMELESS VETERANS

Commissioner Gibbs reported on the November 10th, 2009 Veterans Connect event, at the SFVAMC Downtown Clinic
401-3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94107-1214

He is still collecting clothing for homeless veterans.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Commissioner Guglielmoni had knee surgery at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, at Fort Miley, and he was impressed with their good care. Commissioner Gibbs also called the medical care that he received to be top flight at Fort Miley.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION

Commissioner R. Wong reported that the Governor is supporting education assistance for members of the California National Guard. He has been appointed to the California State Commanders Legislative Council. Some of the bills that are waiting to go to the Governor involve no or very little cost:

- SB 264 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day (Paul Cook)
- SB 369 POW-MIA flags on state buildings (Abel Maldonado)
- AB 425 vehicle registration by deployed military personnel (Paul Cook)

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of August 3rd, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

- AB 1340 Special Absentee Voters (Bonnie Lowenthal)
- AB 1569 Physical Education (Mary Salas)

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

Commissioner Caldera reported that the AL Post #315 will have a workshop on how to win the hard-to-win veterans administration claims. Ray Parish will be the speaker. The program will be held at the War Memorial Veterans Building on August 22nd, 2009.

Commissioner Guglielmoni was elected to the state DAV executive committee, during the DAV state convention.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

President Levin reported that Swords to Plowshares will open a veterans' employment office on the 3rd floor of the War Memorial Veterans Building.

HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner R. Wong read a prayer for Elbert "Bud" Wilson.

Meeting adjourned in memory of the 5,028 Americans killed in Iraq (4,305) and Afghanistan (723), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, and the veterans that died because of suicide during the months of June and July, and the below listed local veterans that recently passed away.

Allen Strutz, 91, World War II, Alameda County – Veterans Affairs Commission

Bok Pon, Cathay AL Post #384 Commander

Henry R. Cavagnolo, 89, U.S. Army Reserve, World War II

Robert C. Doney, retired CSM, 31 years military, bronze star, air medal, World War II, Korean conflict, Vietnam, 1st Sergeant special forces unit

John Francis Miller, 87, World War II, Distinguished Flying Cross

Major General Robert S. Holmes, U.S. Army retired

Gerald E. "Jerry" Gallagher, 95, U.S. Merchant Marine, World War II

The meeting adjourned at 7:34PM.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEPT. 14, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

(BECAUSE OF LABOR DAY THE COMMISSION WILL MEET ON SEPT. 14, 2009)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER – Meeting held in honor of Charles "Corky" Reed and Fred Gomez. Veterans Affairs Commissioners who passed away during the same week in Sept. 2006.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS & OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Discussion of and possible action on the following items:

Marines Memorial Korean War Commemoration Dinner honoring Man J. Kim.
University of California Japanese war dead bone collection.
Swords to Plowshares to open a Veterans Employment office in Veterans Building.

- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin - Memorial Day elected officials Role of Honor.
- B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni - Aide to Secretary of Army report.
- C. SECRETARY - Comm. Dara Wong - Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary National Convention Report.
- D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -
- E. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson -
- F. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley -
- G. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. R. Wong -
- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. R. Wong - Report on Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention. Comm. Guglielmoni - DAV report. Comm. Caldera - American Legion District 8 post status report.
- J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin - American Legion War Memorial Commission and War Memorial Trustees report.
8. OLD BUSINESS – Comm. Varni- Latest report on the Missing in Action (MIA) Project, pertaining to MIA's recovery.
9. NEW BUSINESS -
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,125+ Americans killed in Iraq (4,324) /Afghanistan (801), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of August.

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of September 14th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:20PM, a quorum being present. President Levin led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in honor of Charles "Corky" Reed and Fred Gomez, two Commissioners that passed away during the same week in September 2006.

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni	x		
Regalado Baldonado	x		
Jill Buck			x
John Caldera	x		
Veronica Cauley	x		
Renie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs			x
Chris Gruwell			x
James Guglielmoni			x
Michael Thompson	x		
Edwin Wilkerson	x		
Raymond Wong			x
Dara Wong			x

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Eight (8) commissioners present, six (6) commissioners excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Margaret Champagne, Matt Shea (AL Post #911 Commander), Michael Gerold (ALWMC Chairman) were present.

Acceptance for approval of September 14, 2009 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Caldera, 2nd by Commissioner Champagne. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of August 3, 2009 minutes. Motion by Commissioner Cauley, 2nd by Commissioner Thompson. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Gerold reported that there would be a picnic at the Palo Alto VA hospital in about 4 weeks, and another picnic at the San Francisco VA hospital at Fort Miley. Matt Shea reported that AL Post #911 was supporting a disabled veterans' bicycle ride to Los Angeles in October.

The following committee reports were submitted:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dinner for Man J. Kim

President Levin reported that Man J. Kim, who has had many dinners in honor of Korean War Veterans, at his Powell Street restaurant "Sears Fine Foods". He also operates the Lori's Diner chain. He was to be honored for his service to veterans on September 23, 2009, at the Marines' Memorial Club.

World War II Japanese War Dead

The media had a field day reporting that the University of California at Berkeley had a collection of Japanese World War II military or civilian bones from the island Saipan. Everyone appears to agree that they should be return to the government of Japan.

Swords to Plowshares will open a Veterans Employment Office, on the 3rd floor of the War Memorial Veterans Building in September. They are renting the space from the War Memorial Board of Trustees.

**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of September 14th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

Commissioner Caldera reported that his AL Post #315 has been put on probation by the AL District #8 leadership two times this year and that they have filed charges against the AL District #8. They recently had a meeting with the AL Department Commander, and they have another meeting later this month. He requested that we table his report until next month. President Levin reminded everyone that the Veterans Affairs Commission has no authority over the American Legion, and that Commissioner Caldera's report was for information only.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Commissioner Thompson reported that the Veterans Employment Committee will have a meeting on September 16, 2009 at the

SFVAMC Downtown Clinic

401-3rd Street

San Francisco, CA 94107-1214

He also reported that Swords to Plowshares has a great training program underway for veterans.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION

Commissioner R. Wong forwarded to the commission copies of a VFW Legislative Alert: Save the **Women's Health Care Bill S.252** which passed the U.S. Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee earlier this year, was stuck in the U.S. Senate. The U.S. Senate needed a push to approve this bill before the end of the session. Everyone was urged to contact their U.S. Senators to urge them to support this critical bill.

POW-MIA - Keith Phillips who got the commission to pass the resolution urging the government to do more to locate those missing in action. He sent us information on his effort to get our federally elected officials to increase the funds for recovery efforts in the Defense Authorization bill. He requested that we e-mail him our support on his website.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

The AL District #8, the ALWMC, and War Memorial Board of Trustees did not meet during the month of August. The War Memorial Trustees did meet on September 10, 2009. The only item on their agenda pertaining to veterans was that the Trustees gave the ALWMC one more month to resolve the expired financial agreement between the ALWMC and the Trustees. The agreement expired on December 31, 2008 and the Trustees have given the ALWMC three (3), three-month extension (9 months) to resolve this issue. The Trustees have continued to the ALWMC \$ 2,500.00 per month, which was the amount paid in 2008. This agreement started in 1977, when the ALWMC gave up the Veterans Auditorium (Herbst Theatre) and the Green Room. The Trustees gave the ALWMC \$ 35,000.00 for 4 years. After that the contract was renewed every two years except in 2004 and in 2009. They have a meeting in September and we can only hope this important issue is resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Champagne reported that the Veterans Day Parade will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2009 starting at 11:00AM, from 2nd Street and Market Street, going up Market Street to the City Hall reviewing stand. The parade forms will be distributed.

HONORS REPORT and ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in memory of the 5,130 Americans killed in Iraq (4,326) and Afghanistan (804), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, and the veterans that died because of suicide during August.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER -
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin -
 - B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni -
 - C. SECRETARY - Comm. Dara Wong - Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary National Convention Report.

 - D. COMMISSION GOALS & PLANS -
 - E. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson -
 - F. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley -
 - G. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs -
 - H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. R. Wong -
 - I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. R. Wong - Report on Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention. Comm. Guglielmoni - DAV report. Comm. Caldera - American Legion District 8 post status report.
 - J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin - American Legion War Memorial Commission and War Memorial Trustees report.

8. OLD BUSINESS -
9. NEW BUSINESS -
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,130+ Americans killed in Iraq (4,326) /Afghanistan (804), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of September.

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554-7724

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of October 5th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:07PM, a quorum being present. President Levin asked Nicolas King to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

	present	absent	excused
Wallace Levin	x		
Robert Varni			x
Regalado Baldonado	x		
Jill Buck			x
John Caldera	x		
Veronika Cauley	x		
Renie Champagne	x		
George Gibbs	x		
Chris Gruwell			x
James Guglielmoni	x		
Michael Thompson	x		
Edwin Wilkerson	x		
Raymond Wong	x		
Dara Wong	x		

Eleven (11) commissioners present, three (3) commissioners excused, eight (8) commissioners required for quorum. Margaret Champagne, Paul Cox, Nicolas King, Stephen Noetzel, Wayne Snodgrass, Peter Strumpn, were present.

Acceptance for approval of October 5, 2009 agenda. Motion by Commissioner Cauley, 2nd by Commissioner Baldonado/Guglielmoni/Thompson. Motion passed.

Acceptance for approval of September 14, 2009. Motion by Commissioner Cauley, 2nd by Commissioner Wilkerson. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Levin asked Nicholas King (legislative aide to District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty) to speak, who reported that Supervisor Bevan Dufty wants to honor Veterans Day, the Veterans Affairs Commission, and veterans. He plans on doing this at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. They will give us complete information when it is finalized.

Peter Strumpn (Gulf War-era veteran, left military in 2002) has been in San Francisco for 25 years.

President Levin introduced Paul Cox (AL, ALWMC, Swords-to-Plowshares, Veterans for Peace), introduced himself, informed the commission, Swords-to-Plowshares 501c(3) non-membership group, is occupying the 3rd floor, front part, for their employment program, is being charged for month-to-month rent from the SFWMPAC Board of Trustees.

President Levin asked Stephen Noetzel (AL, Veterans for Peace, contractor) to speak to the commission. He has been active and interested in veterans affairs, activities, and veterans benefits.

The following committee reports were submitted:

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**City & County of San Francisco
Veterans Affairs Commission
minutes of October 5th, 2009 meeting
(415) 554-6036**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A free exhibit from National Japanese-American Historical Society and the Presidio Trust will be available to view from November 11, 2009 through January 31, 2010

Prejudice and Patriotism
Presidio Officers' Club
Presidio of San Francisco

President Levin circulated San Francisco National Cemetery "overlook" brochures, portions will be incorporated into the 2010 Presidio Memorial Day program.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS

Commissioner Caldera reported that his AL Post #315 has been put on probation by the AL District #8 leadership two times this year and that they have filed charges against the AL District #8. They recently had a meeting with the AL Department Commander, and they have had another meeting in September that was cancelled with no notice. He reported that the San Francisco AL leadership says one thing about unity, but in fact does the complete opposite in their relationship with the AL members and AL posts. President Levin reminded everyone that the Veterans Affairs Commission has no authority over the AL, and that Commissioner Caldera's report was for information only.

Commissioner Wong(s) briefly summarized the convention highlights, speakers from the the VFW 110th national convention, and the Ladies Auxiliary VFW 96th national convention, held in Phoenix, Arizona

Commissioners Thompson and Wong(s) supported the SFVAMC/VAPAHCS "Welcome Home" event held at the Presidio Trust on Saturday, September 26, 2009.

SFVAMC <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=152>, is the official designation, part of VA Sierra Pacific Network ([VISN 21](#)) providing services to veterans, celebrating the SFVAMC facility 75th anniversary on September 9, 2009. SFVAMC consists of five outpatient clinics located at Eureka, San Bruno, Santa Rosa, Ukiah, and a specialized homeless veterans clinic in downtown San Francisco. SFVAMC history can be viewed http://www.sanfrancisco.va.gov/docs/sfvame_history_2009.pdf

VAPAHCS <http://www.palo-alto.med.va.gov>, is the official designation, part of VA Sierra Pacific Network ([VISN 21](#)), providing services to veterans. VAPAHCS consists of three inpatient facilities located at Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Livermore, plus six outpatient clinics in San Jose, Capitolia, Monterey, Stockton, Modesto, Sonora.

Commissioner Guglielmoni briefly summarized the DAV 89th national convention, held in Denver, Colorado. He also reported the local DAV members held September 19, 2009 BBQ to benefit the 144 patients at the SFVAMC nursing care unit, also planning a fishing derby for a future event.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION

Commissioner R. Wong circulated eight (8) pages electronically to the commission, highlights which were pointed out:

- SB 264 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day (Paul Cook, Co-Chair, Committee on Veterans Affairs), signed by Governor Schwarzenegger signed September 2009 during a signing ceremony at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms, to designate every March 30th hereafter

Commissioner R. Wong asked the commission to support by e-mail/fax/letter the nine (9) Assembly bills sponsored by Mary Salas (Chula Vista; Chair, Committee on Veterans Affairs), and for permission to send a letter of gratitude to Mary Salas and Paul Cook for their pro-active support on veterans affairs issues.

Commissioner R. Wong reported on the U.S. Navy "blue water" veterans' status, also Paul Cox, Commissioner Cauley had additional comments.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER -
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS AND OTHER ACTION ITEM

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Discussion and possible action:

After giving the American Legion War Memorial Commission ten months to comply with their requests for financial information to renew their expired (12/31/08) agreement, the War Memorial Board of Trustees voted unanimously at their Oct. 8th meeting to not give any more extensions and to stop direct payments to the Legion Commission. This action will be in effect until the Legion Commission, "Resolve questions and any discrepancies concerning the Commission's income and expenditure statement for 2007 through 2009 and Confirm the Legion Commission has adequate financial controls and practices in place to manage future income and expenditures on behalf of the Posts". See full Board of Trustees Veterans Committee Head Report: (Trustee Myatt) included.

Letter of thanks to Assemblywoman Mary Salas, Chair Veterans Affairs.

- A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin - Appointment of Nomination Committee.
- B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni -
- C. SECRETARY - Comm. Dara Wong -
- D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS - Comm. Levin - Bylaws.
- E. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson -
- F. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley -
- G. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs -
- H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. R. Wong -
- I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. R. Wong - VFW report, Comm. Gugielmoni - DAV report, Comm. Caldera - American Legion report.
- J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin -

8. OLD BUSINESS -
9. NEW BUSINESS -
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -
11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,140+ Americans killed in Iraq (4,330) /Afghanistan (810), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, and the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of October.

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REGULAR ITEMS (Item No. 2):

Additional Extension of Agreement between the War Memorial Board of Trustees and American Legion War Memorial Commission:

Veterans Committee Head Report: (*Trustee Myatt*)

As Trustees are aware, the agreement between the Trustees and the Commission has to do with the 1977 transfer of management and control of the Veterans Auditorium—now Herbst Theatre—from the Commission to the Trustees. Under the original 1977 agreement, the Trustees agreed to pay an annual sum to the Commission to replace one of the Commission's sources of income – rental revenues from the auditorium – to help cover the Commission's office expenses for administering and scheduling uses of the Veterans Building space allocated to the American Legion Posts. Since 1977, this original agreement has been renewed for 13 two-year periods, with each renewal agreement specifying an annual sum to be paid by the Trustees to the Commission based on the Commission's needs and requirements at the time.

In considering previous renewals, the Trustees reviewed income and expense data provided by the Commission in order to discern the Commission's financial needs at the time. For 30 years, from 1977 through 2006, the War Memorial received copies of the Commission's annual budget, monthly income and expenditure statements, and final annual financial report. However, for the past three years since 2007, the Commission has not provided this information to the War Memorial despite staff requests.

The current renewal of the agreement has been pending before this Board for the last ten months. The Trustees have approved four extensions of the agreement to provide time for the Commission to meet with War Memorial staff. Commission Chair Michael Gerold finally met with Staff on September 24. The financial data provided by the Commission at that September 24 meeting raised a number of questions as to how the Commission is using City taxpayer money received from the War Memorial as well as to their financial management controls. The Commission has not responded to requests from War Memorial staff for additional information concerning the Commission's 24 September financial report.

The Trustees have a fiduciary responsibility – both to the City and to the San Francisco American Legion Posts who are represented by the Commission as a collective beneficiary of the War Memorial Trust – to insure that monies paid by the Trustees to the Commission are used for the purposes intended by the parties and are expended with proper approvals and financial management controls.

As reported by Beth Murray, I reviewed the limited financial data provided by the Commission. I have questions regarding the Commission's uses of City funds as reported. I am also concerned that the Commission has not responded to Staff's request for additional information.

I propose at this time, that the Trustees NOT approve an additional extension of the current agreement; instead, I recommend that the Trustees continue to deposit the monthly payment called for in the current agreement into an escrow account. I recommend that this matter be re-referred to the Veterans Committee for the purpose of engaging the Commission in discussions to:

- Resolve questions and any discrepancies concerning the Commission's income and expenditure statements for 2007 through 2009;
- Confirm the Commission has adequate financial controls and practices in place to manage future income and expenditures on behalf of the Posts;
- Identify the Commission's current operational needs and ways in which financial or other resources can be realized to achieve those needs; and
- Develop and adopt recommendations to the full Board on a renewal of the agreement that will include provisions that define the intended purposes of any monies paid by the Trustees to the Commission and set forth financial reporting requirements of the Commission to the Trustees.

As a matter of interest to the Board, we have also learned that a new Commission Chair will be elected at the Commission's next meeting on October 20th. If the Trustees approve my recommendations, I would delay convening the Veterans Committee meeting until the new Commission Chair is in place.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2009 MEETING
415-554-6036

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President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. & led the Pledge.
Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, John Caldera, Renie Champagne, George Gibbs, Chris Gruwell, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Michael Thompson, Edwin Wilkerson, Dara Wong & Raymond Wong. Jill Buck, Veronika Cauley & Robert Varni were excused. Margaret Champagne, Stephen Noetzel, Matt Shay & Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass were also present. 11 commissioners present & 3 excused.

Comm. Caldera moved approval of agenda, 2nd by Comm. Guglielmoni. Motion passed.
Comm. Guglielmoni moved approval of minutes of Oct. meeting, 2nd by Comm. Caldera.
Motion passed, with one abstention (Gruwell).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Stephen Noetzel, Vietnam War Veteran, & Matt Shay, Afghanistan War Veteran, have both applied for the commission position held by the late Bud Wilson. They both presented their qualifications for that appointment, which will come before the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee on Nov. 5th.

REPORTS AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS – Motion by Comm. Guglielmoni, 2nd by Comm. Thompson & Caldera for the commission to support Trustee J. Michael Myatt's report and the War Memorial Board of Trustees unanimous vote at their Oct. 8, 2009 meeting, to not give any more extensions and to stop direct payments of tax payers money to the American Legion War Memorial Commission, until they resolve questions and any discrepancies concerning the commission's income and expenditure statement for 2007 through 2009 and that they confirm that the commission has adequate financial controls and practices in place to manage future income and expenditures on behalf of the posts of the American Legion. Motion passed with 9 for & 2 abstentions (Gibbs & Wilkerson).

Motion by Comm. Raymond Wong, 2nd by Comm. Dara Wong, to send a letter from the commission, to Assemblywoman Mary Salas thanking her for her great support to veterans. Motion passed.

Motion by Comm. Guglielmoni, 2nd by Comm. Dara Wong appointing Comm. Wilkerson, Thompson, Champagne & Baldonado to the Nomination Committee. Motion passed, with one abstention (Gruwell). Their nominations will be presented at the December meeting, followed by nominations from the floor. Nominations will also be open prior to the election in January, with the new officers terms starting at the February meeting.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – President Levin reported that thanks to Supervisor Bevan Dufty, the Board of Supervisors will honor veterans & the commission at the Board meeting held on Nov. 10th, at 3:30 p.m. All members of the commission are invited. Copies of the new proposed By laws were passed out. Members of the commission were urged to study them, so that they can be discussed at the December meeting.

SPECIAL REPORT – Comm. Gruwell reported that Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier had introduced legislation to increase the size of the Veterans Affairs Commission from 15 members to 17 members and that it would come before the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee on Nov. 5th. No one on the commission had heard anything about the change and there was general surprise that the Board had not given us the courtesy of at least informing us about the change and giving us a chance to give input.

EMPLOYMENT – Comm. Thompson reported that the 20th Annual Veterans Employment Committee Job Fair will be held at Fort Mason, on May 12, 2010. Invitations to employers in San Francisco & San Mateo County will go out in January.

HOMELESS VETERANS – Comm. Gibbs reported that the Veterans Connect Event would be held on Nov. 10th, at the SFVAMC Downtown Clinic, at 401 3rd Street.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION – Comm. R. Wong reported on Federal Legislation HR 2319, will remove the 25 year limitation on veterans home loans & HR 2756, pertains to veterans home loan refinancing.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS – Comm. Guglielmoni reported that the DAV would have a veterans service event on Nov. 21st, at the Veterans Building.

Comm. Guglielmoni, R. Wong & D. Wong attended the October California Department of Veterans Affairs meeting in Sacramento. The meeting was held to inform veterans organizations what was taking place at the Department.

VETERANS DAY PARADE – Comm. Champagne reported that thanks to the JROTC units, there would be 90 units in the parade.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT – in memory of the 5,150+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of October and the 8 Coast Guard & 2 Marine members killed in the air crash off San Diego in October.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 104
WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING
(415-554-6036)

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MEETING AGENDA

MEETING HELD IN HONOR OF DEC. 7, 1941

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
7. REPORTS AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Welcome to new commissioner Stephen Noetzel.

Opening of nominations for President, Vice President & Secretary for 2010.

Report of the Nomination Committee - Comm. Wilkerson -Additional nominations.
DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Board of Supervisors honors Commission & veterans at Nov. 10th Board Meeting.

Board of Supervisors passes legislation altering Commission without consultation.

Presidio Trust dedicates National Cemetery Overlook on Nov. 11th.

Presidio Trust Officers' Club Prejudice and Patriotism Japanese American exhibit.
Project Homeless Connects Veterans Connect Nov. 10th event.

Battle of the Bulge Commemorative event at the Veterans Building on Dec. 12th.

Review of new proposed Bylaws in coordination with the Administrative Code.

A. PRESIDENT - Comm. Levin -

B. VICE PRESIDENT - Comm. Varni -

C. SECRETARY - Comm. Dara Wong -

D. COMM. GOALS & PLANS - Comm. Noetzel

E. EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson -

F. HEALTH & WELFARE - Comm. Cauley -

G. HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Gibbs -

H. LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. R. Wong -

I. NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. R. Wong - VFW report, Comm.

Guglielmoni - DAV report, Comm. Caldera - American Legion report.

J. WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING - Comm. Levin - American

Legion War Memorial Commission elects Roger Dong as their new Chairman for 2010.

8. OLD BUSINESS – Comm. Champagne - Veterans Day Parade.

9. NEW BUSINESS -

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS -

11. HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT in memory of the 5,140+ Americans killed in Iraq (4,330) /Afghanistan (810), the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans who died because of suicide during the month of November, the Navy Patrol Bombing Squadron's eight Navy fliers killed when their PBM-5 Mariner seaplane crashed into Mount Tamalpais, on Nov. 30, 1944, Michael Scott Speicher, Navy pilot shot down on first night of 1991 Gulf War, Lieutenant Commander Che Jeremy Barnes, pilot of Coast Guard C-130 that crashed on 10/29/09 and Richard Hall, 90, WWII Marine Corps officer.

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LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2009 MEETING
415-554-6036

President Levin called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. & Comm. Buck led the Pledge.
Commissioners present: Regalado Baldonado, Jill Buck, John Caldera, Veronika Cauley,
Renie Champagne, James Guglielmoni, Wallace Levin, Stephen Noetzel, Michael
Thompson, Robert Varni, Edwin Wilkerson, Dara Wong & Raymond Wong.
Commissioners not present: George Gibbs and Chris Gruwell were excused.
Margaret Champagne & Deputy City Attorney Wayne Snodgrass were also present. 13
commissioners present & 2 excused.
Comm. Cauley moved approval of agenda, 2nd by Comm. Thompson. Motion passed.
Comm. Guglielmoni moved approval of minutes of Nov. meeting, 2nd by Comm. Caldera.
Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Comm. Caldera on behalf of the officers and members of
American Legion Post 315 thanked the commission for passing the motion supporting the
report and the War Memorial Board of Trustees unanimous vote at their Oct. 8, 2009
meeting, to not give any more extensions and to stop direct payments of tax payers money
to the American Legion War Memorial Commission (ALWMC), until they resolve
questions and any discrepancies concerning the ALWMC income and expenditure
statement for 2007 through 2009 and that they confirm that the ALWMC has adequate
financial controls and practices in place to manage future income and expenditures on
behalf of the posts of the American Legion.

President Levin welcomed new Veterans Affairs Commissioner Stephen Noetzel, who
informed the commissioners of his desire to be a good commissioner and to help the
commission reach its mandate to help veterans.

OPENING OF NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT & SECRETARY
Report of the Nomination Committee - (Comm. Baldonado, Champagne, Thompson &
Wilkerson) Comm. Wilkerson presented the following nominations; President: James
Guglielmoni & Robert Varni. Vice President: Raymond Wong. Secretary: Dara Wong.
Also nominated for President: Veronika Cauley. Nominations will be opened again in Jan.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Motion by Comm. Guglielmoni, 2nd by Comm. Cauley to send a letter thanking Supervisor
Bevan Dufty and the Board of Supervisors for honoring veterans and the Veterans Affairs
Commission at their Board meeting held on Nov. 10, 2009. This was the first time the
Board had recognized the commission in 26 years and was very much appreciated. The
motion also conveyed the commissions concern that on Nov. 12, 2009, the Rules Committee
passed legislation pertaining to the commission without giving the members of the
commission the courtesy of informing us that this legislation would be brought before the
Board of Supervisors. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Comm. Wong, 2nd by Comm. Caldera to thank the Presidio Trust for their dedication of the new Presidio National Cemetery Overlook on Nov. 11, 2009 and their presentation at the Presidio Officers' Club of the Prejudice and Patriotism Japanese American World War II exhibit. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - President Levin conducted a review of the revised commission Bylaws passed out at the November meeting. He urged members of the commission to review the Bylaws & to give him input during December. Deputy City Attorney informed the commission that the Bylaws cannot be in conflict with the San Francisco Administrative Code

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Comm. Varni reported that he took commission candidate Matt Shay around to 9 members of the Board of Supervisors and that the commission needs an Iraq veteran, because they are the veterans presently in need.

HOMELESS VETERANS - Comm. Noetzel reported that the Veterans Connect Event held on Nov. 10, 2009, at the SFVAMC Downtown Clinic, was a success. He volunteered & interviewed over 50 homeless veterans and he learned a lot from his experience. As a commissioner his goal is to continue his efforts to help homeless veterans and to find ways for the commission to get the City and the Federal Government to do more.

EMPLOYMENT - Comm. Thompson reported that the 20th Annual Veterans Employment Committee Job Fair will be held at Fort Mason, on May 12, 2010. Invitations to employers in San Francisco & San Mateo County will go out in January.

LEGISLATION EVALUATION - Comm. R. Wong reported that the VA is now recognizing 15 illness's connected to Agent Orange used in Vietnam.

NATIONAL VETERANS GROUPS - Comm. Guglielmoni reported that at the DAV Veterans Service Event, at the Veterans Building, had 497 veterans attending and the DAV Service Officers helped veterans with 152 claims.

Comm. Levin reported that American Legion Post 244 was sponsoring the Battle of the Bulge Associations 65th Commemorative event at the Veterans Building on Dec. 12, 2009.

VETERANS DAY PARADE - Comm. Champagne reported that thanks to the JROTC units, there were 90 units in the parade and it was a good parade.

HONORS REPORT & ADJOURNMENT - in memory of the 5,150+ Americans killed in Iraq & Afghanistan, the homeless veterans that died in San Francisco, the veterans that died because of suicide during the month of November, the Navy Patrol Bombing Squadron's eight Navy fliers killed when their PBM Mariner seaplane crashed into Mount Tamalpais, on Nov. 30, 1944, Michael Scott Speicher, Navy pilot shot down on the first night of 1991 Gulf War, Lieutenant Commander Che Jeremy Barnes, pilot of Coast Guard C-130 that crashed on 10/29/09 and Richard Hall, 90, WWII Marine Corps officer.



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